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THE SITUATION.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 19, 1876.

Upon investigation at the Attorney General's office, sufficient precedents in this country are found to sustain the count of three thousand informal votes alleged to have been cast for electors in Louisiana. A recent decision in the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, in the case of a Congressional vote, is that where the intention of the voter was evident, it can be counted as if cast in a formal manner.

Four companies of the Fourth United States Artillery, Colonel Lodor commanding, arrived here to-day from South Carolina and went into camp at the arsenal. Troops in South Carolina during the elections have been ordered here to await further instructions. The officers with the troops say the people of South Carolina, so far as they learned, were not interested in the election of Hampton, and took little interest in the Presidential contest, many of the Hampton men voting for Hayes. The troops will remain to await developments in the South. So far as the concentration of a military force at the capital is concerned, high military officers said to-day that to concentrate anything like the force mentioned would require all the troops to be withdrawn from the Southern States and Indian frontier.

Real Admiral Stephen D. Trenchard, commanding the North Atlantic fleet, who has been here some days in conference with the naval authorities, has left for Hampton Roads, where the Hartford, his flagship, now lies. She was to sail to-day. Orders have been sent to the Plymouth at Philadelphia to sail. The order to the Essex for surveying service on the Pacific has been countermanded. The iron-clads Passaic, Montank and Wyandotte are at Norfolk; the Manhattan, Catskill, Dictator, Ajax and Saugus, iron-clads, are at Port Royal; the Assipee and Canonicus are at New Orleans.

VICTORY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The State Shown to be Republican by Nearly One Thousand Majority on the Face of the Returns—A Count Which no One Questions—The Argument Before the Supreme Court—South Carolina Democrats Only Anxious to Save Hampton.

COLUMBIA, November 18.—It is decided at last that the electoral vote of South Carolina was cast for Hayes and Wheeler in spite of shot-guns and barrels of money. The State Board of Canvassers completed the count of this vote at noon to-day, in the presence of eight chosen representatives of each party, admitted by resolution of the board at the suggestion of Judge Carter and Congressman Packer, and there is no complaint from any one that the count was not perfectly fair. After the count was completed, the board took a recess while the clerks were footing up the figures. On reassembling, the Chairman of the board, Mr. Hayne, directed the clerk to announce the result, whereupon Haskell, Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of South Carolina, objected to reporters of the press being present to take the vote as declared. General Conner, Democratic candidate for Attorney General, also objected to the board announcing the result until the count of votes on the other tickets was completed and return made to the court. In reply, Mr. Hayne said this was not intended as an official announcement of the result, but merely for the information of the board. As to the reporters, they had been permitted to be present during the count, and he could see no reason why they should not hear the result. It could make no difference any way, as they were in possession of the figures, and could add them up for themselves. General Conner took exception to the ruling of the Chairman. Mr. Hayne remarked that he was not aware that any of the parties who had been admitted on either side were here as counsel, but only as spectators or witnesses to the accuracy of the count. The result of the electoral vote was then declared by the clerk as follows:

Republican Electors at Large—C. C. Bowen, 91,786; John Winsmith, 91,870.

District Electors—T. B. Johnson, 91,852; Timothy Hurley, 91,870; D. T. Nash, 91,804; Wilson Cook, 91,432; William F. Myers, 91,830.

Democratic Electors at Large—T. G. Barker, 90,806; Samuel McGowan, 90,737.

District Electors—J. W. Harrington, 90,805; J. L. Ingraham, 90,798; William Wallace, 90,906; J. B. Irwin, 90,906; Robert Aldrich, 90,860.

The reason of Hurley running so much behind the other electors is owing to a clerical error of the Inspectors of Election in Blackville, Barnwell county, who accidentally omitted his name in their return to the County Commissioners. Pending decision of the Supreme Court as to the power of the board to go behind the face of the returns, as forwarded by the county commissioners, the board could not, of course, correct this error, or any other; but if the decision shall be in their favor, they will be able to show beyond any question that the majority of the Republican electoral ticket, instead of averaging 900, is nearer 3,000. The Democrats residing here appear to be much better satisfied with the result as announced by the board than the sensational dispatches from the North to count the State in for Tilden.

All the South Carolina Democrats here hoped for was the election of Hampton, and it is probable that this secured, provided the board shall not be permitted to go back of the face of the returns. The other State officers are in more doubt, as was the Legislature. If Republican county, where 2,000 more votes were returned than there are voters, should be thrown out of the count, or the returns corrected in accordance with the fact that the whole Republican State ticket will be elected, with a Republican majority in the Legislature. The decision of the court on the powers of the board in this respect is expected on Monday. Meantime the board will proceed with the count of votes for State officers.

The court requested a rehearing on certain provisions of law regarding the duties of the State Board, which it will hold this afternoon. Attorney General Elliott appeared for the board and General Connor in opposition. The question was whether the board, which is required to certify to the correctness of the vote, could properly do so without taking the necessary steps to investigate the returns, which would open up the whole question of their power to go back of the face of the returns. The request by the court for a rehearing is construed here as an indication that the court will decide in favor of the powers claimed by the board. It is a noteworthy fact that the counsel for the Democratic side changed his base since the last argument to the extent of admitting that the board had the right to go back of the returns, so far as to correct manifest clerical errors. The reason of this is said to be that the Democrats wish to put in a claim to several errors, but the Republicans are perfectly willing to meet them on this score, and feel entirely confident that if the court allows the board to go back of the returns at all, they will be permitted to open up the whole question of fraud, intimidation and illegal voting. There is very little excitement here. All the interest of the Democrats appears to center on the vote for Wade Hampton, which will not be counted complete before Monday. Judge Cartter and Congressman Packer leave to night for the North; also Smith Weed, who has been here since Tuesday looking after Tilden's interests.

The Vote for State Officers—A Good Showing for the Republicans.

COLUMBIA, November 18.—The State Board of Canvassers' tabulated returns for all State officers except Governor and Lieutenant Governor, from the face returns of the county canvassers, show Hine vote is close and the result is undoubtful that it will take the correction of numerous clerical errors to determine the successful candidates. The returns show that Hayne, Republican, is re-elected Secretary of State by 227 majority; Elliot, Republican, elected Attorney General by seven votes; Hagood, Democrat, Controller General by 256 majority; Thompson, Democrat, Superintendent of Education by 442; Kennedy, Republican, by 161, and Cardozo, Republican, by 208.

REPUBLICAN FLORIDA.

The Democratic Leaders Despondent—The Incoming Returns Reducing the Democratic Figures—Suspicious Delay of the Returns from Some of the Counties—Instances of Former Frauds by the Democrats—A Poor Chance for Them this Time.

TALLAHASSEE, November 18.—The past twenty-four hours has thrown a little more light on the political situation, and of a character still more favorable for Hayes and the Republican State candidates. Official returns have been received from the counties of Walton and Holmes, which reduce the Democratic claims 102. There are still ten Democratic counties to hear from officially. The returns from at least eight of these counties should have been received some days ago, and there is every reason for apprehension that they are kept back for the purpose of being manipulated to suit the requirements of the Democrats. It should be borne in mind that all the Democratic counties, with three exceptions, are in the hands of Democratic officials, and these officials have in several instances given evidence of their willingness to perform any act of political necessity which the Democratic leaders may require of them. For instance, in 1872, when the returns came to hand from the Democratic officials of Jackson county, the Democratic candidate for Governor, who received only 939 votes, was credited with 1,339; the Republican candidate, who received 1,105, was only credited with 709, and so on through the whole list of candidates. The perpetration of this fraud by the Democrats was not disproved at the Tilden investigation, and it cannot be denied now. The evidence exists on the records of the State Canvassing Board, and the altered returns certified to officially by that board in the Governor's business. Similar frauds are shown to have been attempted in four Democratic counties in the present canvass. The returns from Volusia, Hillsboro, Hernando and Levy counties have been tampered with, and made to show fictitious majorities. If further opposition had not become so important an element in the national contest, the absurd claims of the Democrats to have carried the State would long since have been abandoned. On the day after the election, when the heavy majorities given by the Republican counties in favor of Hayes and Wheeler and the Republican State ticket became generally known, the Democratic leaders virtually threw up the sponge and conceded the election to their opponents; but, when the extraordinary intelligence flashed over the wires that the result of the Presidential election depended upon the vote of Florida, the Democrats, excited by this unexpected condition of affairs, and spurred up by telegrams from the leaders, took back their concessions, and, with brazen faces, claimed a victory for their candidates. The returns of Democratic counties within reach of the telegraph, and which had been already heard from, were subjected to a process of expansion. For instance, in Monroe county the Democratic majority was returned at 60; it was raised to 250 when the national situation became known. Orange county was officially heard from as having given 950 Democratic majority, although one of the most inaccessible counties in the State, and at least four days distant from this place. But these tactics were soon discovered by the Republican leaders, and every means possible taken to secure true returns of the actual votes cast. To-day the Democratic leaders do not come here from the North are very much discouraged, in view of the fact that with all the doctoring done by Democratic officials, the returns, without any revision or throwing out, will show a majority for Hayes. Yesterday a committee of Democrats waited upon the Governor, and asked him what it was his intention to act with reference to canvassing for the electoral vote, as had been done in 1872. On that occasion Governor Reed canvassed the electoral vote from the copy of the returns which the law directs to be sent to the Governor, and gave the electors their certificates before the Canvassing Board met. The Governor replied that in such a crisis he would not do so without hearing from both sides in the matter. The Democrats do not wish him to canvass the vote, as they know the returns will show a majority for Hayes, and they have a view to securing the rejection of the vote of some of the large Republican counties, on the ground of fraud.

A Democratic Manifesto.

The following document, which, on the face of it, is a Democratic manifesto, and bears internal evidence of being prepared by the Northern Democrats in Florida, comes to us through the Associated Press:

TALLAHASSEE, November 18.—The following seems to be the situation in this State: Each party claims the State on the Presidential ticket. It is pretty well conceded that the Democrats carry their State ticket. The Democrats base their claim of the electoral ticket on official returns received as follows. It is ordered that the count of the votes and the canvass of the same shall be done in public. The Democratic committee are arranged to have certified copies of the official returns made in each county, and forwarded. They have received these from all save five counties, all Democratic. Then estimates based on these unofficial copies of official returns give Drew and Tilden both a clear majority. The Republicans will furnish no figures, stating that they will await the official returns. Many stoutly claim that Hayes has carried the State. However, it is probable that Tilden will have a majority of some 500 or 400 on the returns as made officially by the county canvassers. The Republicans claim that, even admitting this, they will be able by proving frauds, to overcome this majority and thus establish the State for Hayes. The fight before the State Board will be very bitter; the Democratic leaders, defending their majority for Tilden will attack the returns in Jefferson, Alachua and Leon counties, which are the Republican strongholds. They claim to have discovered a glaring fraud in Alachua in the returns of the election inspectors were raised 219 votes, and their names forged to a new return.

The Democratic State Committee yesterday addressed a note to the Board of State Canvassers requesting them to proceed at once to the canvass of such county returns as are already in. They based their request upon the fact that a great mass of testimony would come before the board from both sides, and that its proper presentation and argument would take a long time, and that as the United States law requires the Governor to issue his certificate to the Presidential electors on the 6th of December, it is necessary to begin work at once in order that a fair hearing may be had.

The board this morning declined to commence the canvass, Mr. Cocke, a Democrat, voting yes, and Messrs. McLin and Cowgill, Republicans, voting nay. The Republican declined on the ground that the law says, "On the thirty-fifth day after election, or sooner if all the returns are in, the canvass of the vote shall be begun," and that as the time has not yet expired, and all returns are not in, the canvass cannot legally begin work. The Democrats claim there is a clause allowing the canvass to begin at any time, and canvass such returns as are in, not counting any county as the exclusion of any county for non-arrival until the thirty-fifth day has come. Steps will probably be taken to see if there is not law in the Supreme Court some power to force the canvassers to begin work. The Democrats aver that the delay is meant to either force the Governor to issue certificates without a canvass when the 6th of December arrives, or to open the canvass at so late a day that there will be no time for a full and fair discussion of the frauds involved.

Governor Stearns Proposes to Canvass the Vote for Electors Himself—The Democracy Object.

TALLAHASSEE, November 19.—There is reasonable ground for believing that Governor Stearns will assume that the State board has no power to canvass the electoral vote, but that the power resides in the Governor. This assumption will permit the Governor to decide all issues pertaining to the canvass, and issue certificates to whichever set of electors he considers duly elected. His assumption is based upon the fact that the act creating the Returning Board does not use the word "electors" in giving the list of officers whose vote the board shall canvass. The power to canvass this vote not being specifically conferred upon the board, he considers that it resides in him, as he is required by a United States law to issue electors' certificates, and must canvass the vote in order that he may decide who is entitled to certificates. Democrats are astonished that this claim is set up, and contend that the word "electors" is not used in the act referred to simply because electors are included under the head of State officers, which expression is used in the act. The Democratic committee waited on the Governor and asked him what line of action contemplated such a step, they would ask permission to file a protest. He stated that they should have an opportunity to do so, and this morning informed them by letter that he should be pleased if they would forward in writing whatever they had to say upon the subject. This is considered an intimation that he intends to move in the matter without delay. Elaborate opinions are being prepared on both sides of the question. There is some movement ordered in military circles to night; precisely what it is cannot be ascertained. It is supposed the troops are going to some of the contested counties.

How Five of the Republican Electors Were Left Off a Few Tickets—Only a Few of These Imperfect Ballots Cast—The Result Not at All Affected.

WASHINGTON, November 18.—The publication to-day of a story that five of the Republican electors of Louisiana were left off the electoral ticket in several parishes has caused much rejoicing among Democrats, and much fear to Republicans, since people generally had no means or verifying the truth of the report. It is learned from Senator West that this omission from the printed ticket has been known to the Republicans for several days, and they understand the whole extent of it. There was but a small number of these imperfect ballots cast, and not enough, by any means, to affect the result. Senator West's previous information has been supplemented to-day by two telegrams, sent in reply to inquiries made by him. Both say he is no fear of the result, and they refer particularly to these imperfect ballots. The Democrats appear to have just discovered them, and are making the most of the error. Other persons who would have been advised of anything serious have not been telegraphed concerning this supposed new feature, and no importance is attached to it by those who have the best opportunity to know the real condition of affairs.

THE NEW ORLEANS CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter From the Visiting Republicans to the Democrats—The Proposed Conference Made Unnecessary by the Action of the Returning Board.

NEW ORLEANS, November 18.—The following reply has been made to the last letter of the Democrats by visiting Republicans here:

GENTLEMEN: We are gratified to learn that we have misapprehended the language and spirit of your communication of the 14th inst., and that we were in error in attributing to you a purpose to interfere with the legally constituted authorities of this State in the discharge of their duties. Perhaps this misapprehension was the natural result of the language employed. Your request was to meet and confer with you personally or through committees, in order that such influence as we possess may be exerted in behalf of such canvass of the votes actually cast as by its fairness and impartiality shall command the respect and acquiescence of the American people. This, as we understood, was a request to co-operate with you for the purpose of influencing the action of the Returning Board in the discharge of its duties.

The President had requested us to attend there to witness, not to influence such canvass, and we know that such request by him was not intended to limit us to witness the count of votes actually cast, but the entire proceedings of the board in reaching a result as to the votes legally cast to be counted. We are gratified to learn that you concur with the President and with us in this understanding. You also state that you are fully aware that both the organization and action, whether judicial or ministerial, of the Returning Board of Louisiana was beyond any authoritative control from without, and it would be the height of arrogance and folly to attempt to alter the laws of a State of which we are not citizens, or to intrude our interpretation of the laws upon those whose duty it is to administer them. We may, therefore, as we think, assume that you will agree with us that it would be arrogance equally to attempt by any one concerted action to influence the proceedings or result of courts of justice or of boards acting judicially, and hence we are gratified at being able, from the language and tenor of your letter, to assume that you did not wish to confer with us for the purpose of influencing the action of the Returning Board, but only to secure such co-operation on our part as would enable us, jointly with yourselves, to witness the proceedings throughout. A conference for such a purpose would now seem to be unnecessary, as we learn from a communication just received from the Returning Board; which appears to us to accomplish all that —by your explanatory note—you desire to attain by the proposed conference.

We will add that it is very apparent that if your wish is to see a fair and honest expression from the electoral vote of Louisiana, there is no difference between ourselves and you except as to your conduct in reference to that result. You have proposed a conference and active associated influence. This we regard as beyond our duty or our privilege as individuals. We shall be happy at all times to confer with you, and shall endeavor to do only such whatever shall be right, but concerted action for the purpose of influencing an official board we hold to be beyond our privilege, and we shall hope that it will not come to pass which good citizens can wish without the use of any such means. We remain, gentlemen, very respectfully, yours,

JOHN SHERMAN,
STANLEY MATTHEWS,
JAS. A. GARFIELD,
JOB E. STEVENSON,
Of Ohio.

E. W. STOUGHTON,
J. H. VAN ALLEN,
New York.

WILLIAM D. KELLEY,
Pennsylvania.

EUGENE HALE,
Of Maine.

J. M. TUTTLE,
J. W. CHAPMAN,
WILLIAM R. SMITH,
W. A. MCGREW,
Iowa.

SIDNEY CLARKE,
J. C. WILSON,
Kansas.

C. B. FARWELL,
ABNER TAYLOR,
J. M. BEARDSLEY,
S. R. HAVEN,
Illinois

JOHN COBURN,
WILL CUMBACK,
Indiana.

C. IRVING DITTY,
Maryland.

To Hons. J. M. Palmer, Lyman Trumbull, W. R. Morrison, Samuel J. Randall, A. G. Curtin, William Bigler, Hernando Stanton, George B. Smith, J. E. McDonald, George W. Julian, M. D. Manson, John Love, Henry Watterson, J. W. Stevenson, Henry D. McHenry, H. Shirley, Oswald Ottendorfer, J. B. Stallo, L. V. Bogy, James O. Broadhead, C. Gibson, John Lee Carroll, W. T. Hamilton, W. G. Sumner, P. H. Watson, F. R. Coudert, New Orleans.

The Invitation to Attend the Counting of the Vote.

NEW ORLEANS, November 18.—The following communication was forwarded to the visiting Republicans; a similar document was sent to the Democrats:

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF RETURNING OFFICERS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, STATE HOUSE, NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 18.

Hon. John Sherman, St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans:

SIR—At a meeting of the Board of Returning Officers, held this day, the following preamble and resolution, introduced by General Thomas C. Anderson, were unanimously adopted, viz.:

WHEREAS, This board has learned with satisfaction that distinguished gentlemen of national reputation from other States, some at the request of the President of the United States, and others at the request of the National Executive Committee of the Democratic party, are present in this city with a view to witness the proceedings of this board in canvassing and comparing the returns of the recent election in this State for Presidential electors, in order that the public opinion of the country may be satisfied as to the result of the election and the fairness of the means by which it may have been attained; and

WHEREAS, This board recognizes the importance which may attach to the result of their proceedings, and that the public mind should be convinced of its justice by a knowledge of the facts on which it may be based; therefore be it

Resolved, That this board does hereby cordially invite and request five gentlemen from each of the two bodies named, to be selected by themselves respectively, as Democratic Committee on Election and Returns, requested to know whether the presence of counsel representing the Democratic candidates would be allowed during the deliberation of the board.

The President replied that only in cases where disputed points arose would counsel for both parties be called in. He added that counsel would be permitted to inspect the returns when they were opened, in order to see whether they had been tampered with.

Colonel Zacharie, of counsel for the Democratic candidates, filed a plea against the constitutionality of the board, and protested against certain action. The following grounds were set forth:

First—By section 2, Article 98, 1872, creating a Board of Returning Officers, there is no term fixed for tenure of office, and by the same section it is provided that in case of any vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, by either of the board, the vacancy shall be filled by the residue of the board, thus creating a board with power perpetuating itself indefinitely, and conferring said power in certain contingencies upon a single person; that the votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the direct and immediate effect of all of which is to place the power in the hands of five persons or ultimately in one person, and his appointees, for all time to determine of what persons shall be constituted the executive and legislative branches of State government; that said act in said respect is in direct conflict with the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Louisiana, as creating a government not republican in form or character.

Second—By the act under which the said board claims to proceed, the said board is vested with powers judicial in their character, and in that respect the act is in conflict with Article 94 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

Third—That if the constitutionality of the law were established beyond question, we again object, and protest, and accept to the manner in which the present acting board is constituted. The act 98 of 1872, section 2, provides that five persons to be elected by the Senate from all political parties, shall be returning officers for all sections in the State. We except, object and protest that the act has not been complied with, as none of the members now composing said board are members of the Senate of Louisiana, and therefore said board is not constituted as required by law.

Fourth—On behalf of the Democratic electors, the counsel protested against the counting and compilation of the vote for A. B. Levisee and A. H. Brewster, Republican electors, on the ground that when Brewster was voted for he was occupying the Federal position of United States Surveyor General, and that A. B. Levisee was a United States Commissioner, and ineligible according to Article two, paragraph two, of the Constitution.

The board will determine on Monday whether argument in this protest will be permitted. No election was held to fill the vacancy on the board, which adjourned until Monday next.

EX-Governor E. F. Noyes, of Ohio, General Lew Wallace, of Indiana, and Hon. John C. Parish, of Iowa, left this morning by rail for Florida.

General John Coburn, Hon. Will Cumback and Judge Stanley Matthews departed homeward this afternoon.

The Democratic Committee to Watch the Count.

NEW ORLEANS, November 18.—The visiting Democrats appointed the following to remain here and be present to witness the counting of the votes by the Returning Board; John M. Palmer, of Illinois; Lyman Trumbull, of Illinois. William Bigler, of Pennsylvania; George B. Smith, of Wisconsin, and P. H. Watson, of Ohio.

Figuring Out Democratic Success in the State.

NEW ORLEANS, November 19.—The total vote of the State, made up from duplicate poll lists received from forty-seven parishes, and ten parishes estimated by the registration this year and the vote of 1874, is as follows: For Governor, Nichols 84,262; Packard, 76,112; total, 160,224; total vote in 1874 for Treasurer, 147,705; increase this year over 1874's vote, 12,519; Nichol's majority over Packard of the vote counted, 8,090. For Tilden electors, five have a majority over the highest vote for the Republicans of 9,249. The other two Tilden electors have a majority of 7,036. The discrepancy in the returns of Jefferson parish, the omission of the names of five Hayes electors from the Republican ticket in the several parishes.

The following gentlemen have left the city: Oswald Ottendorfer, F. R. Conditt, New York; C. W. Wooley, Connecticut; J. C. McDonald, John Coburn, Indiana; ex-Governor John Lee, Maryland; ex-Governor Curtin, Pennsylvania; J. W. Chapman, Iowa; Charles Gibson, Missouri; Hon. W. R. Harrison, Illinois; J. B. Jeffreys, Hon. Will Sinkins, Chicago. The gentlemen here at the request of the President and also those sent here by Republican organizations from States other than Louisiana, have determined, they say, to secure a full stenographic report of all the proceedings and evidence before the Returning Board, so that an intelligent judgment may be given to the public and sent to the President. They have determined to change their committee of five from time to time, so that all of them may observe the mode of proceeding and the appearance and character of the witnesses examined.

VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, November 18.—Returns from all the counties have been received by the Secretary of State, showing the vote for Tilden and Hendricks electors to be 130,612, and for Hayes and Wheeler electors 95,268, giving Tilden a majority of 44,244. The vote of York county is not included in the above, as the returns only gave the vote for the Presidential candidates, and not for the electors. The Democratic majorities in the Congressional districts not before reported are: First, Douglas, 3,239; Second, Goode, 1,174; Third, Walker, 2,106; Fifth, Cabell, 5,304; Seventh, Harris, 10,893; Ninth, Pridemore, 10,536. In the Fourth district, Jorgensen's, Republican, majority over Hanbey, Democrat, and Demortee (negro), Independent Republican, is over 1,000. It is stated that there will be contests in the Second and Fourth districts.

MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, November 18.—The official vote of Maryland for President and Vice President is as follows: Tilden, 91,770; Hayes, 71,981; Tilden's majority, 19,799. The following are the official majorities of Representatives to Congress (all Democratic): M. Kinsey, First district, 3,382; Charles H. Roberts, Second district, 3,019; William Kimmell, Third district, 5,559; Thomas Swann, Fourth district, 2,531; Eli J. Henkle, Fifth district, 2,751; William Walsh, Sixth district, 14.

RHODE ISLAND.

PROVIDENCE, November 19.—Governor Lippitt yesterday received the following telegram from General Sickles:

NEW YORK, November 18.—*To Governor Lippitt*: Word here, on authority of Mr. William Beach Lawrence, that one of the Republican electors of Rhode Island is ineligible, and that the law of your State gives the office to the person having the highest vote who is qualified. Lawrence claims to be elected himself.

D. E. SICKLES.

To which Governor Lippitt replied:

"Our State laws provide for all contingencies in case of vacancies from any cause in the electoral college. This State will give four votes for Hayes and Wheeler.

"H. LIPPITT."

The only occasion for this correspondence is the fact that Hon. George H. Corliss, elector-elect, is a Centennial Commissioner appointed by the President on the nomination of the Governor.

LET'S HAVE THE OTHER SIDE.

Terrible Outrage by Negroes in South Carolina.

CHARLESTON, November 17.—A special dispatch to the *News and Courier* this afternoon says: A colored Democrat was severely beaten by Radical negroes at Lawtonville, in the upper part of Beaufort county. The trial justice issued a warrant for the arrest of the offenders, and five were arrested by the constable and *posse*. These, on returning with the prisoners last night, were attacked by a body of armed negroes, and two of the white constables killed and the prisoners rescued. The Sheriff of the county is now on his way to Lawtonville. Telegrams from Varnhille state that negroes, 1,000 in number and armed, are at Stafford Cross Roads, near Lawtonville, swearing vengeance on every white man in the county.

CHARLESTON, November 17.—A late but unofficial dispatch from Stafford Cross Roads says there was a fight there yesterday, lasting until dark, between twenty-seven whites and three hundred well-armed negroes. No negroes reported hurt. Twenty-five citizens arrested under the Enforcement act were brought into Ashley Ferry section this morning.

LATER.—No additional trustworthy particulars of the affair at Stafford Cross Roads have been received up to 9:15 P. M., except that only two constables, Delosche and Sherman, made the arrest of the five negroes, and that early to-day dispatches were sent along the line of the Port Royal, Savannah and Charleston Railroad, calling for help, which help is said to have been sent.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 17, 1876.

Changes Proposed in Pension Laws.

The Commissioner of Pensions to-day submitted a report supplementary to his annual report. It embraces recommendations to ensure the more economical administration of the office and the expedition of business; suggests the repeal of the present law admitting *ex parte* affidavits in support of claims, and the existing system of medical examinations. The Commissioner says if this species of testimony in support of claims be continued it will swamp the office. Last year the increase of original claims was fifty thousand, not sixty four per cent. of which were passed. There are now on file eighty-eight thousand unadjudicated claims. It is proposed to abolish the 1,513 examining surgeons, as the local associations and influence dispose them to too great liberality in passing subjects of examination. It is found also that the testimony in most cases is entirely unreliable. The number of persons ready to perpetrate frauds seems to be on the increase. It is recommended that the entire country be divided into sixty districts, and that a surgeon be appointed for each to make medical examinations, and a clerk to look into the claims and make up their papers to be sent in a form ready for adjudication by the Pension Bureau. This system will cost $38,960 less than that now in vogue. Examining surgeons now receive two dollars for each examination; which amounts to $106,200 a year. It would also enable the Commissioner to make a reduction of at least one-third in the present force of the bureau. The list of pensioners having commenced to decline, it is much desired to maintain a fair ratio of diminution, not, however, affecting just claims, but relentlessly ignoring those of questionable merit.

Report of General Sherman.

General Sherman to-day presented his report to the Secretary of War. It embraces a detailed review of the operations against the hostiles, brought down to the latest date. It states that with the exception of the bands of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, the hostiles are subjugated and in better manageable condition than ever before. He is confident that the two bands will be captured before spring, as it is not possible for them to elude capture in the face of the troops now in pursuit.

Report of the Treasurer of the United States.

The report of the Treasurer of the United States has been presented to the Secretary of the Treasury. Treasurer Wyman confines himself entirely to a simple narration of the business of his office, thus judiciously avoiding the breakers upon which his predecessor, Mr. Spinner, stranded when he undertook to propound theories of finance which were not always in harmony with those entertained by the head of the department. The following is that portion of the report relating to the business of the Redemption Agency:

The receipts of national bank notes by the National Bank Redemption Agency for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1876, amounted to $204,299,875 94, a net increase of $48,878,-995 46 over the fiscal year 1874-75. On July, 1875, the cash balance on the books of the agency was $5,036,902, and the uncounted packages on hand with unbroken seals on same date represented $764,129 32. The United States funds drawn from the Treasury for redemption of bank notes at the counter were $4,738,-979 and several packages received for redemption $16,491 42, making the aggregate operations of the agency $215,086,368. Of this sum the agency was credited with $5,000,000 in national bank notes for cancellation, of which deposited in the Treasury; $24,927,900 notes of failed, liquidating and reducing banks deposited in the Treasury; $97,478,700 assorted bank notes fit for circulation returned to the several national banks; $78,643,155 assorted national bank notes unfit for circulation delivered to the Comptroller of the Currency for replacement with new notes, leaving a cash balance of $7,942,539 on June 30, 1876.

The amount of notes of each denomination redeemed and assorted for the fiscal year was:

	Fit for circulation.	Unfit for circulation.
One dollar	$ 1,252,350	$ 1,312,200
Two dollars	182,100	913,400
Five dollars	30,945,000	3,000,000
Ten dollars	24,832,300	22,132,300
Twenty dollars	18,792,000	12,722,900
Fifty dollars	3,888,400	4,444,700
One hundred dollars	21,061,600	5,730,100
Five hundred dollars	1,092,000	475,500
One thousand dollars	152,000	55,000
Net increase	$1,260,528.	Notes $45,788,910.

The redemptions of national bank notes were by transfer of checks on assistant treasurers in New York and Boston.

The following statement was made of national bank notes:

Fit for circulation returned to the several national banks	$ 97,478,700
Unfit for circulation delivered to the Comptroller of the Currency	78,643,155
Fit for circulation deposited in the Treasury	5,000,000
Notes of failed, liquidating and reducing banks deposited in the Treasury	24,927,900
Total	$206,049,755
Net increase	58,184,802

The following is a statement of credits to national banks in the five per cent. fund:

United States currency deposited with assistant treasurers	$105,734,528 37
United States currency received by express	19,042,491 62
National bank notes received by express	52,643,065 00
Cash received at counter	664,289 45
The following sums were incurred by the Redemption Agency and assessed upon the banks during the fiscal year ended June, 30, 1876, in carrying into effect the provisions of section 3 of the act approved June 20, 1874:	
Express charges (assessed in proportion to the amount of notes redeemed for each bank)	$159,142 84
All other expenses (assessed in proportion to the number of notes redeemed for each bank), salaries, printing and stationery, postage, &c	206,050 47
Total	$365,193 31

The report adds: The item of express charges includes all of the express charges paid on national bank notes received for redemption and on United States currency returned therefor; on national bank notes fit for circulation assorted and returned to the several national banks; and on United States currency received for credit of national banks in the five per cent. fund prior to April 17, 1876. All of these charges have been consolidated and assessed upon the several national banks in proportion to the amount of their circulation redeemed and assorted. The amount of notes assorted during the year was $176,121,855, of which $97,478,700 were fit for circulation, and $78,693,155 unfit for circulation, making the average rate for each $1,000 assorted 90 36 cents. The increase in the average rate for the present over the preceding year is due partly to the large increase in the proportion of notes fit for circulation returned to the banks of issue, and partly to the increase in the rates for the transportation of national bank notes to the agency. These rates were increased from twenty-five cents for each $1,000 to the Adams Express Company and thirty-five cents for each $1,000 to each other express company over whose lines the remittances are transported, to thirty-seven and one-half cents for each $1,000 to each company. This increase was demanded by the companies and conceded by the department on the ground that they were subject to penalties for transportation of unassorted bank notes than in the transportation of United States currency, or of assorted bank notes returned to the banks for the reason that there is no mode of obtaining reimbursement for the former in case of loss. No increase was made in the rates for the transportation of any other class of remittances. Since April 17, 1876, each national bank has been required to pay the express charges on United States currency forwarded by it for credit of the five per cent. fund. That course having been pursued with United States currency forwarded for redemption, the same rule was applied to remittances for credit. Otherwise the expenses for the transportation of credit remittances would have been largely increased.

Pay of Naval Officers on Furlough.

The Secretary of the Navy has introduced into the legislature of that island a telegram from the Minister of Colonies at Madrid, stating that it is not possible for the Spanish Government to forbid Cuban ports to receive refugees. Porto Rico and the Governors General may come to a mutual understanding about the means of preventing the frauds committed with Porto Rico tobacco.

DESPOILERS OF LINCOLN'S TOMB.

Capture of the Two Men Who Attempted to Steal the Remains of Lincoln.

CHICAGO, November 18.—At a late hour last night United States Detectives Tyrell and Washburn, with the aid of two local detectives, captured the two men who attempted to steal the remains of President Lincoln from the vault in Springfield, Ill., on the night of November 7. These men are Terence Mullen, *alias* "T. Durnan," the proprietor of the "Hub Saloon," No. 294 West Madison street, where the arrests were made, and Jack Hughes, *alias* J. Smith, an old counterfeiter, connected with the notorious Ben Boyd. These men have been shadowed since the attempt was made to despoil the tomb, and the proof of their guilt is said to be abundant. The officers will take the accused to Springfield this morning to await the action of the grand jury.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

Railway Companies Responsible for Debts Contracted by their Employees.

CINCINNATI, November 20.—In the case of the Scioto Valley Railroad against Dennis Cronin, to set aside a verdict against the railroad requiring them to pay employees of Dennis Cronin, sub-contractor for constructing said road, on account of the financial failure of Cronin, before Judge Minshall, Court of Common Pleas, Chillicothe, Onio, on Saturday, a verdict was rendered reaffirming the former decision. The Judge decided that railroads were responsible for debts of contractors to employees.

A Congressman-Elect Sues a Virginia Paper for Libel.

RICHMOND, November 18.—James Jorgensen, Congressman-elect from the Fourth district, to-day entered suit in the Circuit Court of Richmond against the proprietors of the Richmond *Dispatch* for alleged libel, laying his damages at $10,000. The suit is based on the following editorial from the morning's *Dispatch* referring to an article in the Petersburg *Index-Appeal*, charging the latter with embezzling public money while Postmaster of Petersburg.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Threatened War.

THE PORTE STILL OPPOSED TO A CONFERENCE—RUSSIA INTENDS WAR—ENGLISH TROOPS READY FOR SERVICE IN THE EAST.

LONDON, November 16.—The *Pall Mall Gazette*, this afternoon, states that up to this morning the Porte's objections to the conference had not been removed. The same journal, in a leading editorial, says it believes Russia intends war. She is prepared to insist upon claims which she believes the Porte will refuse, and is getting ready to impose them by force. The situation, it says, is but little different from what it would be, if for the word "armistice" the words "Russian demands of reform" were submitted, and the Ignatieff ultimatum, thus modified, were still lying before the Porte.

A telegram from Ragusa says the Turkish army of Albania has scattered. The portion under Dervish Pasha has been ordered to Bulgaria and the Danube, and fifteen battalions to Constantinople

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1876.

THE import trade of Philadelphia, last month, amounted to $1,094,069 direct, and $60,888 via New York. The amount in September was $1,031,008, and in August $1,630,088.

THE Atlanta *Constitution* serves notice upon the belligerent Bourbon editors of the North to confine the proposed fighting to their own side of the line. This, we fear, will tend to dampen the ardor of our local Democratic contemporary.

THE Washington *Star* is authority for the statement that several members of Congress have already signified their intention to offer an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for the purpose of avoiding in the future the difficulties and dangers now attending the election of a President.

"LET A MEETING BE CALLED"

The *Post* grows lachrymose and weeps over the political situation. The Democratic cock no longer doth salutation to the morn in its columns, but with drooping feather, cut comb and broken spur, retires to its old familiar perch to recuperate for future contests, on such crumbs of comfort as may be picked up during the next four years. Having lost the election at the polls, and its favorite "main" of game chickens having been fairly defeated, the *Post* now wants a "meeting" called to denounce the election officers—totally depraved men, if we are to believe our contemporary—who are now engaged in the official duty of certifying to the election of HAYES and WHEELER, and the defeat of TILDEN, HENDRICKS and "reform." It also suggests the perusal—at the "dim vesper hour," of course, when thoughts of grief come heaviest o'er the heart—of WASHINGTON'S Farewell Address to his countrymen, as pertinent to the present condition of affairs. Both of these suggestions are timely. A "meeting" is a good thing—always provided it is of the right sort. We were long ago impressed with the importance of such popular assemblages. We recall a print, yet extant, which, doubtless the editor of the *Post* has frequently admired, of an asinine cast, bearing the legend "When shall we three meet again?" There is also the "meeting" of the witches in "Macbeth," where one of the weird sisters inquires forcibly:

"When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lighting or in rain?"

Then there are the meetings of the immortal Pickwick Club which shed such unfading luster upon science and archæology, to say nothing of the Manhattan Club, where the candidate of the *Post*, for President, who is now being "counted out," according to that voracious journal, daily meets his political confrères and drowns his perplexities in the sunset glow of Burgundy, and the ruby radiance of Bordeaux.

The meeting the *Post* now wants, it appears, is of the "Conservative and order-loving citizens of Pennsylvania, to give an expression of opinion in relation to the present political situation, and to record their protest against the attempts now being made by a few reckless and desperate politicians to nullify the Presidential election, and by fraud and chicanery, count HAYES in as President."

Let us have such a "meeting" by all means. Embossed cards of invitation, *a la* TWEED, gilt-edged, and of Oriental size and pattern, should, properly, be extended to distinguished citizens of other States to attend—notably to Hon. JOHN MORRISSEY, Hon. JOHN KELLY, Hon. FERNANDO WOOD, Hon. BENJAMIN HILL, and other eminent "Conservative" citizens. Let the editor of the *Post* act as Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, and Mr. HOPKINS procure an illuminated copy of WASHINGTON'S Farewell Address, and a new cambric handkerchief wherewith to wipe his tear-bedewed eye glasses. The meeting should be held at Democratic Headquarters, Fourth avenue—J. K. P. DUFF in the chair, of course—and ex-Speaker PATTERSON officiating in the double-barrelled capacity of Vice President and Secretary. Mr. HOPKINS will pathetically read the address of the "Father of his Country," omitting, however, for fear of offense to the rank and file of the Democracy, the caution it contains against the "insidious wiles of *foreign* influence," against which, as the old gentleman well observed, the "jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that it is the most fatal enemy to the purity of republican government." The resolutions might then appropriately be offered by Coffee-Pot WALLACE, that eminent naturalizer and reformer. Of course, they would be adopted *nem. con.*, and thereby the country, now on the verge of destruction, would be at once saved from "impending ruin." All would then be lovely and serene again.

But can the country be thus "saved?" We doubt it, much as we revere the average Conservative and Democratic citizen. WASHINGTON'S Farewell Address won't do it. "Resolutions" are airy and unsubstantial productions, and signify but little now-a-days. How would it do to leave the final result to the constituted authorities of the State and nation, and to *abide by it*, when declared, as all "law-abiding" citizens should do, and then to accept the situation gracefully? It strikes us, upon mature reflection, that this would be better and wiser than to leave the matter to a "meeting" however respectable or conservative.

THE favorite plan of the Democratic leaders, for defeating or preventing the inauguration of HAYES, in case the votes of Louisiana and Florida are cast for him, is, that the House of Representatives shall withdraw as soon as the vote of Florida is reached and the Senate makes an attempt to count it. They will hold the Florida return illegal; take the position that neither candidate has received a majority of the whole number of electoral votes, and proceed to elect a President, as provided by the Constitution. This scheme may serve to inspire despondent Democrats with the hope that TILDEN may yet be made President; but, at the risk of dispelling such a pleasant delusion, let us examine the subject a little further. The Senate and House, let us suppose, have met in joint session. The President of the Senate is there, with the returns, and, as directed by the Constitution, he proceeds to open them, that they may be counted. The certificates from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut and Delaware are opened in regular order, and the votes in each tabulated by the tellers. Then comes the certificate from Florida, to which the Democrats object. The President of the Senate insists on having the vote counted in with the others, but the Democrats withdraw in a body and the House is left without a quorum. When the Democratic majority has assembled to proceed with the election of TILDEN, how are they to take the first step? The Constitution especially declares that "the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for President shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed." In the first place, there is but one way of legally ascertaining whether the electors have made choice of a President or not, and that is by opening *all* the certificates and counting up the votes. Secondly, the certificates must *all* be opened "in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives." It is plain, therefore, that it is as much the duty of the House to remain until the last certificate is opened, and the whole vote counted, as it is the duty of the President of the Senate to open the certificates and announce their contents. The House cannot, by any resolution, know whether HAYES or TILDEN has a majority, until the last State is called. When Florida is reached, only thirty-four of the three hundred and sixty-nine votes will have been recorded, and it is simply absurd for Democrats to claim that they would have even the colon of law for withdrawing at such a juncture. To do so would be to violate several of the plainest directions of the fundamental law—those which require all the certificates to be opened, the vote to be counted, the House to remain present during the count, and the fact to be announced whether either candidate has a majority or not. For the House to withdraw, pending the count, would be clearly illegal; and to attempt to elect a President, after so withdrawing, would be utterly void as well as revolutionary. Even if the House should withdraw in this disorderly way, the Senate would go on, complete the count and announce the result. If HAYES should have 185 votes, that fact would be formally announced, and, in the language of the Constitution, he would "be the President." Such a plan as that contemplated would not work at all, and if TILDEN is to be made President it must be shown that he has received a legal majority of the votes cast, or that HAYES has failed to obtain such majority.

WE have recently had occasion to examine with some degree of care the volume entitled "Centenary Memorial of the Planting and Growth of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania and Parts Adjacent, containing the Historical Discourse delivered at a Convention of the Synods of Pittsburgh, Erie, Cleveland and Columbus, held in Pittsburgh, December 7-9, 1875." The material for this work has been prepared systematically, and with great care, the preparations for it extending over a period of six or eight years. The several subjects treated on were classified, and the writers were chosen with special reference to their peculiar fitness for the respective tasks assigned them. The first discourse is upon the life and labors of Dr. JOHN MCMILLAN, the pioneer of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania, by Rev. D. X. JUNKIN, D. D. This is not merely a biographical sketch of the distinguished "father," but embraces the wider range of the gospel which he preached and its influence upon the civilization of this region of country. "The Religious History," by Rev. AARON WILLIAMS, contains accurate data in regard to early revivals, notably those remarkable manifestations known as the "falling work." To these interesting facts are added brief sketches of prominent lay helpers, who contributed largely to the religious work of that day. "The Educational History" is from the pen of Rev. JAMES I. BROWNSON, D. D., who traces, in a very entertaining manner, the rise and progress of those educational institutions which have contributed so largely to the upbuilding of Presbyterianism in the West. The academies, the colleges, the seminaries, are all sketched, including the Western Theological Seminary. "The Missionary History" is by Rev. E. E. SWIFT, D.D., and includes both foreign and domestic missions, with biographical sketches of laborers in missionary fields. "The Ecclesiastical History," by Rev. SAMUEL J. M. EATON, D.D., covers the organization of presbyteries and synods, with notices of the earlier ministers. "Sketches of Pittsburgh in the Last Century" is the title of a paper by WILLIAM M. DARLINGTON, Esq., containing much valuable historical information. "The Secular History" is by Hon. JAMES VEECH, and while it occupies the largest chapter in the book, is second to no other in interest and value. It traces the connection of secular affairs with the early Presbyterian Church history of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and relates to early settlements, military operations, the formation of counties, the troubles growing out of the boundary disputes, the Whisky Insurrection, etc. The closing address is by Professor SAMUEL J. WILSON, D. D. LL. D., and is entitled "The Future in the Light of the Past." The book is printed in elegant style, and is embellished with a number of fine portraits and other illustrations. In a word, it is a work of such intrinsic value that no minister, teacher or scholar can afford to do without it; and no intelligent layman of the Presbyterian family should deny himself the pleasure and profit of its perusal and possession.

WE glean the following interesting statistics from advance sheets of the report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1876. For the first time in the history of the registered letter system the office presents a detailed statement of its operations. Four million seven thousand eight hundred and seventeen letters were registered during the year, and the fees received thereon amounted to $335,416 60. An analysis of this gratifying aggregate shows that of the letters registered, upon which fees were paid, 3,198,961 were domestic; 653,651 were sent to foreign countries; 653,651 were transmitted through the mails without payment of the registry fee. All the packages of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards sent by the department to postmasters are included in the free list. Pennsylvania stands next to New York in the number of letters registered during the year, the total being 274,940. The aggregate number of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards issued during the year was 1,049,797,507, valued at $26,953,421 72, an increase over the previous year of $1,572,460 48, or 16.47 per cent. The loss of property in transit was very small, it being only seven packages, valued at $147 45 out of 331,783 packages, valued at $26,953,421 72, which furnishes an illustration of the efficiency of the registered service. The amount collected from newspapers on papers sent to regular subscribers was $1,014,154 27, an increase of $41,267 29, or 4.24 per cent. It is estimated that the Government loses nearly $2,000,000 a year by frands, which consist mostly in the washing of stamps, and, reviewing all the experiments made to secure an indelible ink for canceling stamps, the preventive to fraud is held to be in the exclusive use of stamped envelopes. The issues of stamps are almost the only revenue of the Post-office Department, and represented last year nearly $27,000,000, the cost for their printing and preparation being less than $1,000,000. The number of letters received at the Dead Letter Office during the year was 3,584,744, containing money and valuables to the amount of $1,939,604 04. The number of applications made for missing letters during the year was 8,405, and in 2,975 of these cases the search was successful. The amount of money taken from letters which could not be restored to the owners was $6,052 28, which reverts to the United States Treasury. The amount realized from the auction sale of property found in dead letters was $2,853 17. In regard to the reductions in the force by the last appropriation bill, the report says the work of the department since the reduction has been carried on only through the most extraordinary efforts, and by working out of the regular business hours. It is held to be mistaken economy to withhold any of the necessary force for the working of the department, and that to retain its efficiency the number of employees should be restored to the original number.

THE votes for President and Vice President are to be opened on the second Wednesday in February, as required by law. If it is understood, in advance, that HAYES has received a majority, and the Democrats should conclude that it would not be safe for them to attempt to throw out the vote of any State (as we have elsewhere shown that it would not), another plan is freely talked of for defeating the inauguration of HAYES. It is claimed to be within the power of the House to delay the count, by captious objections and discussion of technical points, until the close of the session—a period of seventeen days. In this way, it is contended, both the legal announcement of the election, and the inauguration of HAYES would be prevented; and, what is more important still to the Democratic schemers, they imagine that they could thus effectually get rid of President GRANT, whose term expires on the fourth of March. The point raised is, that under such condition of things, there would be no such vacancy as would enable the acting Vice President to act as President. But aside from the fact that the President has power to call a session of both the Senate and House, on the fourth of March next; and that the next House, if not Republican, will be so evenly balanced as to make it difficult for the Democrats to do much mischief, the President still would have it in his power to defeat the consummation of this attempt to produce a state of anarchy at Washington. GRANT can resign on the third of March, and the presiding officer of the Senate would then become President and continue to act until a successor was legally chosen. It is expressly provided in the Revised Statutes, section 146, that "in case of the removal, death, resignation, or inability of both the President and Vice President, the President of the Senate, or, if there be none, then the Speaker of the House for the time being, shall act as President till the disability is removed or a President elected." The gravity of the situation will render it certain that the Senate will choose the right man for President *pro tem.*, and that the Government will be legally started in Republican hands. Mr. FERRY will no doubt be continued until after the day fixed for counting the returns. But it will be necessary, in order to checkmate the plotters against peace and order, and to prevent any *interim* in the office, to choose a President *pro tem.*, whose term does not expire on the fourth of March next. President GRANT, should the exigency seem to require it, would not hesitate to call both Houses to meet at noon on the fourth of March, so that the presiding officer of the Senate could, in the same person and in the same moment of time, declare the old session adjourned and call the new one to order. Every attempt of the Democrats to seize the Government illegally, or to throw the country into needless turmoil and confusion will be prevented if possible.

EUGENE SCHUYLER'S new work, descriptive of his recent journey through Central Asia, possesses especial interest at the present juncture, in view of the great historical and political questions which connect themselves immediately with the subject. After a serious consideration of the Russian administration in that newly annexed region, and to her relations with the separate countries of Khokand, Bukhara, Afghanistan, Kashgar, Kuldja and Tarbagatai, the author arrives at the conclusion that the political relations of the various countries of Central Asia are the natural consequences of many simple and unforeseen circumstances, and of accidents which possibly may not have been sufficiently guarded against; and that it is unnecessary to assume the theory of a settled plan of conquest. Central Asia has no stores of wealth and no economical resources; it can never repay Russia for what it has cost. Had Russia known fifteen years ago as much as she does now about Central Asia, there can hardly be a doubt that she would have made no movement in that direction. But now it is practically impossible for her to withdraw from her position in that country. On the whole, in spite of its many faults, the Russian administration is beneficial to the natives, and its withdrawal would leave them to anarchy. Russia must, apparently, still go on, till she has under her rule all the Mohammedan peoples of the Turkish race. Her neighbor on the east will then be China, with whom she is not disposed to dispute; her southern boundary will be the Oxus, separating her from Afghanistan; her western, Persia. The future of Central Asia seems doubtful. Mr. SCHUYLER thinks that one issue seems possible, the introduction of Chinese industry, which, he holds, would largely increase the productiveness and prosperity of Khokand, Bukhara and Russian Turkistan.

ACCORDING to an interview with General Shaler, of the State militia, he assumes that the Federal Government can command his services at pleasure, with the services of the men under his command, over and above the Governor of the State, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the State troops.—*New York Express.*

So, it can, as an inspection of Article I., section 8, of the Constitution of the United States, and of the decisions rendered under it by the United States Supreme Court, will show. The fifteenth paragraph of that section, which has never been amended, provides that Congress shall have power to organize, arm, and discipline the militia, and govern such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress. Article II., section 2, paragraph 1, in defining the powers of the President, sets forth that he shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States and of the militia of the several States when called in actual service of the United States. Under these provisions of the Constitution, the United States Supreme Court, in the case of HOUSTON *versus* MOORE, reported in the 5th of WHEATON, page 15, holds *that the President is the sole judge of an exigency which will justify him in calling out the militia, and his decision is conclusive, and he may* issue his orders directly to any subordinate officers of the militia. Under this decision, therefore, not only may the Governor of a State, but also the generals of divisions, be disregarded, and orders be issued directly by the President to the colonel of a regiment or the captain of a company, without going through the formality of a proclamation.

[From the Washington Star.]

The Presidential Inauguration.

Following two precedents the President-elect of the United States will take the oath and enter upon his duties at noon on Monday, the 5th of March next. The precedents are in the case of President Monroe, who was reinaugurated Monday, March 5, 1821, and Zachary Taylor, who was inaugurated on the same day of the week and month in 1849. The record in the case of Monroe is incomplete, but in the case of Taylor the journal of the Senate shows that on Friday, the 2d of March, 1849, Mr. Polk, the President, sent a communication to the Senate requesting that body to meet in special session on Monday, the 5th of March, at ten o'clock A. M., as there would, on that day, be matters of interest to engage its attention. The record also shows that the Senate extended its session on Saturday, March 3d, by recesses, until six o'clock on Sunday morning, March 4th, when the presiding officer declared that body adjourned *sine die*. The term of United States Senators expires by law on the 3d of March, but this has been construed to mean until noon on the 4th of the same month. A precedent was established in 1851, which has been followed ever since. McDonald's manual for the use of Senators says:

"On the 3d of March, 1851, on which day the Thirty-first Congress expired, and on which the term of one-third of the members of the body would also expire, the Senate being in session at twelve o'clock midnight, a Senator (Mr. Mason of Virginia), expressed a doubt whether the term for which he had been elected did not expire at that hour, and desired to be qualified as Senator under his credentials of re-election. The Senate thereupon passed by a vote of twenty-seven yeas to eleven nays, the following resolution [offered by Stephen A. Douglas]:

"'*Resolved*, That inasmuch as the second session of the Thirty-first Congress does not expire under the Constitution until twelve o'clock on the 4th of March instant, the Honorable James M. Mason, a Senator-elect from the State of Virginia, is not entitled to take the oath of office at this time, to wit, on the 4th of March at one o'clock A. M.'

Under this resolution the retiring Senators at that time were United States Senators, whether the Senate was in session or not, until noon of Sunday and no longer. On Monday, the 5th of March, when the Senate was convened in session they could take no part in the proceedings, their terms having expired at noon on the preceding day.

That there is an actual interregnum of twenty-four hours from Sunday, March 4th, at noon, until Monday, March 5th, at noon, when the country is without a legal President, there is no doubt. In the two cases referred to in our national history this interregnum has been unapplied. Neither the presiding officer of the Senate nor any one else has ever attempted to exercise the functions of President for the space mentioned, and it is safe to say no one ever will. The pay of the outgoing President ceases at noon on the 4th of March, and that of the incoming one begins at that time. To suppose that any trouble will grow out of this hiatus "is putting too fine a point upon it," as Mr. Snagsby would say. President Grant will doubtless follow the precedent of Mr. Polk and convene the Senate in special session on Monday, March 5th, when the new Senators will take the oath of office.

Captain Bedford Pim, M. P., told his constituents of England the other day that one sailor only in each of England's 25,000 vessels was an Englishman, and that the foreign crews in the next war would navigate the ships to their own ports.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The Official Vote by Counties.

Following is the official vote for President in all the counties of the State:

COUNTIES.	Hayes, R.	Tilden, D.	Cooper, G.	Smith, P.
Adams	2,921	3,433	11	1
Allegheny	28,229	19,344	769	117
Armstrong	4,013	3,821	1	19
Beaver	3,982	2,955	396	37
Bedford	3,210	3,537	175	1
Berks	8,019	15,611	333	2
Blair	4,792	3,943	7	38
Bradford	5,088	4,989	59	40
Bucks	7,722	8,023	2	11
Butler	5,045	4,830	57	57
Cambria	2,989	4,257	92	13
Cameron	342	341	5	1
Carbon	2,758	3,166	90	6
Centre	3,266	4,065	17	8
Chester	9,715	9,031	51	41
Clarion	3,060	4,167	3	14
Clearfield	4,218	4,230	24	2
Clinton	1,809	3,974	60	.....
Columbia	2,069	4,234	34	5
Crawford	7,345	6,755	168	2
Cumberland	4,151	5,062	46	5
Dauphin	7,462	7,841	397	3
Delaware	3,184	3,259	.....	2
Elk	534	1,339	50	.....
Erie	6,721	6,975	51	41
Fayette	4,379	5,991	245	6
Forest	404	355	.....	.....
Franklin	4,897	4,620	.....	9
Fulton	821	1,190	.....	.....
Greene	1,966	3,719	.....	.....
Huntingdon	3,493	2,982	39	11
Indiana	4,984	4,264	2	42
Jefferson	3,250	2,459	44	13
Juniata	1,550	2,013	.....	1
Lancaster	17,425	9,693	.....	35
Lawrence	3,429	1,764	210	72
Lebanon	4,552	3,026	1	4
Lehigh	5,588	7,577	15	.....
Luzerne	14,919	13,386	606	107
Lycoming	4,110	5,425	743	6
McKean	1,427	1,320	12	.....
Mercer	5,508	4,582	405	146
Mifflin	1,718	1,536	1	8
Monroe	776	3,280	.....	.....
Montgomery	9,383	9,654	68	40
Montour	1,436	1,758	48	5
Northampton	5,311	9,271	12	3
Northumberland	4,265	5,061	75	9
Perry	2,684	2,780	24	.....
Philadelphia	77,988	62,137	10	22
Pike	443	1,387	1	.....
Potter	1,621	1,289	16	2
Schuylkill	6,677	10,814	1,340	8
Snyder	1,922	1,539	.....	1
Somerset	3,732	2,327	5	5
Sullivan	509	879	24	3
Susquehanna	4,823	3,885	31	23
Tioga	5,892	4,770	9	9
Union	2,154	1,489	7	1
Venango	3,840	3,471	123	183
Warren	3,151	2,365	19	82
Washington	5,806	5,323	199	3
Wayne	2,260	3,688	6	6
Westmoreland	6,217	7,466	265	10
Wyoming	1,678	2,025	.....	3
York	6,827	10,460	.....	.....
Total	384,184	366,204	7,204	1,318

Anti-Masonic ticket — Allegheny, 8; Armstrong, 1; Bradford, 221; Butler, 5; Cambria, 1; Chester, 1; Crawford, 7; Franklin, 5; Indiana, 1; Jefferson, 2; Lehigh, 2; McKean, 1; Mercer, 15; Susquehanna, 6; Venango, 7; Wyoming, 1; York, 1.

THE OFFICIAL VOTE FOR CONGRESS.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Wards.	Freeman, R.	Thackaray, D.
First	2,589	1,289
Second	2,190	3,107
Seventh	3,602	1,709
Seventeenth	1,733	1,731
Thirtieth	2,934	1,846
Freeman's majority	3,900	11,072

SECOND DISTRICT.

Wards.	O'Neill, R.	Gibson, D.
Eighth	2,106	1,269
Ninth	1,422	1,229
Tenth	2,676	1,344
Thirteenth	1,904	1,462
Fourteenth	2,969	1,664
Seventeenth	531	1,338
Twentieth	4,152	3,196
O'Neill's majority	15,198	11,675
	3,522	

THIRD DISTRICT.

Wards.	Berry, R.	Randall, D.
Third	1,204	2,025
Fifth	1,416	2,267
Fifth	1,853	1,488
Sixth	725	1,227
Seventh	705	1,506
Twelfth	1,420	1,411
Sixteenth	1,580	1,719
Randall's majority	8,924 2,712	11,637

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Wards.	Kelley, R.	Schoch, D.
Fifteenth	4,942	3,443
Twenty-first	3,952	1,527
Twenty-fourth	3,469	2,684
Twenty-seventh	2,906	1,921
Twenty-eighth	2,653	1,755
Twenty-ninth	3,328	2,176
Kelley's majority	18,612	12,451
	6,161	

FIFTH DISTRICT.

Wards.	Harmer, R.	Duval, Ind.
Seventeenth	684	729
Eighteenth	3,245	2,146
Nineteenth	3,390	1,546
Twenty-second	2,870	1,993
Twenty-third	2,755	1,794
Twenty-fifth	2,807	2,858
Thirty-first	2,616	1,977
Harmer's majority	17,759 3,031	14,728

SIXTH DISTRICT.

	Ward, R.	Hartman, D.
Chester county	9,808	6,579
Delaware county	5,571	3,138
Ward's majority	15,220 5,503	9,717

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

	Evans, R.	Rambo, D.
Montgomery county	9,302	9,613
Part of Bucks county	6,405	4,834
Evans' majority	15,767 1,520	
Pennypacker, 62 votes: Montgomery—Acker, 32 votes: Taylor, 4 votes: Bucks, part of—Acker, 1 vote: Taylor, 4 votes.		

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

	Markley, R.	Clymer, D.
Berks	6,213	15,530
Lebanon, Greenback	1,806	1,180
Clymer's majority	9,020	

NINTH DISTRICT.

	Smith, R.	Nauman, D.
Lancaster	13,419	9,574
Smith's majority	7,845	

TENTH DISTRICT.

	Reeder, R.	Bridges, D.
Northampton	6,376	9,136
Lehigh	8,596	7,027
Bucks, part of	1,724	3,306
Bridges' majority	12,256 7,903	20,119

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

	Waller, R.	Collins, D.
Columbia	4,271	4,151
Montour	1,202	1,697
Luzerne	2,942	3,100
Monroe	719	3,192
Pike	99	1,601
Luzerne, part of	3,939	4,867
Collins' majority	10,172 3,576	18,548

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

	Payne, R.	Wright, D.
Luzerne, part of	12,101	13,567
Wright's majority	1,466	
Short term—Jones, R.	12,417	Stanton, D. 12,703

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

	Nutting, R.	Reilly, D.
Schuylkill	10,026	10,107
Reilly's majority	81	

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

	Killinger, R.	Wilson, D.
Dauphin	5,941	5,471
Northumberland	4,024	5,239
Lebanon	4,487	3,013
Dumming, Ind.	10,454 534	13,723
Killinger's majority	2,781	

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

	Overton, R.	Powell, D.
Bradford	5,742	5,349
Susquehanna	4,779	3,926
Wayne	3,576	2,469
Wyoming	1,655	2,007
	463	383
Jefferson	2,294	2,540
	15,186	13,397
White's majority	1,789	

TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT.

	Thompson, R.	Sheakley, D.
Butler	5,642	4,693
Mercer	5,666	5,942
Crawford	7,213	6,745
Thompson's majority	18,521 2,035	16,486
Thom		126

TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT.

	Watson, R.	Scott, D.
Erie	8,557	6,389
Warren	3,231	2,926
Venango	3,762	3,522
Watson's majority	15,640 3,547	12,069
Axtell	257	
Camp	249	

PENNSYLVANIA—OFFICIAL.

CENTRE.

Pres.—Hayes	3,266	Tilden	4,085
Cong.—Lincoln	3,287	Mackey	4,110
Senate—Thompson	3,206	Peale	4,096
Assem.—Zeigler	3,274	Alexander	3,767
McFarland	3,389	Weaver	4,023
As. J'ges—Baker	3,234	Frank	4,033
Odenkirk	3,187	Divine	4,111
Jury Com.—Keller	3,264	Rishel	4,023

FULTON.

Pres.—Hayes	821	Tilden	1,190
Cong.—Milton	815	Senger	1,106
Senate—Dntzy	865	Hickok	1,305
Assem.—Pott	904	Hunter	1,026
As. J'ges—McIlvaine	818	Barton	1,125
Hinson	919	Cooper	1,059
Dis. At.—Alexander	934	Sipes	942
Jury Com.—Mayne	813	Fields	1,187

COLUMBIA.

Pres.—Hayes	2,069	Tilden	4,204
		Cooper	34
		Smith	5
Cong.—Waller	2,271	Collins	4,151
Sen.—Steck	2,058	Allen	4,412
Ass.—Smith	1,986	McHenry	4,385
	1,989	Brown	4,131
As. Judges—Hughes	1,857	Shuman	4,464
McAnall	1,938	Kreisman	4,251
Sheriff—Fornwald	2,185	Hoffman	4,214
Jury Com.—Smith	2,077	Robbins	4,399

MONTOUR.

Pres.—Hayes	776	Tilden	3,280
Con.—Waller	719	Collins	3,192
		Gamble	3,666
Ass.—Shoemaker	1,915	Place	1,880
Jury Com.—Bush	1,403	Altemose	2,164

SUSQUEHANNA.

Pres.—Hayes	4,823	Tilden	3,885
Con.—Overton	4,779	Powell	3,926
Sen.—Waller	4,766	Hawley	3,986
Ass.—Hines	4,804	Tyler	3,834
Larabee	4,921	Handrick	3,841
Prothon.—Simmell	4,808	Rowley	3,913
Jury Com.—Robbins	4,818	Carpenter	3,902
Aud.—Meeker	4,829	Mills	3,916

INDIANA.

Pres.—Hayes	4,934	Tilden	2,248
		Smith	2,351
Con.—White	4,854	Jenks	2,357
Sen.—St. Clair	3,573	Sloan	2,369
		Ramey, I	1,094
		Blood, P	83
Ass.—Crepps	4,467	Harter	2,344
Fulton	4,584	Barclay	2,340
		Work, P	717
		Work, P	2,357
Jury Com.—Coleman	4,821	Laird	2,360
		Stewart, P	130

FORREST.

Pres.—Hayes	464	Tilden	385
		Smith	382
Con.—White	457	Jenks	382
Sen.—Wetter	464	Corbett	383
Ass.—Agnew	469	Haslet	413
Dis. Att'y—Irwin	464	No opposition.	
Cor.—Coburn	465	No opposition.	
J'y Com—Mercillion	464		

TIOGA.

Pres.—Hayes	5,892	Tilden	2,720
		Cooper	178
		Smith	14
Con.—Mitchell	5,779	White	2,763
		Gamble	3,096
Sen.—Seymour	5,883	Granger	2,781
		Steele, P	3
Ass.—Elliet	5,924	Smith	2,971
Young	5,826	Ryon	2,646
Sheriff—Walker	5,894	Mowery	2,800
As. Judges—Retan	5,959	Loop	2,658
Donaldson	5,813	Coie	2,698
Jury Com.—Baxter	5,949	Watson	2,774

VENANGO.

Pres.—Hayes	3,841	Tilden	3,470
		Cooper	103
		Smith	183
Con.—Mitchell	3,762	Scott	3,592
		Axtell, P	247
		Camp, G	212
Senate—Stone	3,855	Targart	3,530
		Catlin	250
Ass.—Dickey	3,902	Hays	3,557
Gates	3,883	Hasson	3,611
Mapes	3,753	Anderson	3,372
		Yanasickle, P	260
		Zuver, P	243
		Lamey, P	264
P. Judge—Taylor	3,905	Dickey	3,629
Dis. Atty—Francis	3,563	McKissick	3,526
		Sherman	3,633
Coroner—Cox	3,710	Snowden	3,505
Jury Com'r—Nolan	3,791	Evans	3,497
		McFate P	329

BRADFORD.

Pres.—Hayes	5,008	Tilden	4,989
		Cooper	59
		Smith	30
Con.—Overton	5,742	Powell	5,349
Senate—Davis	5,615	Bowell	5,329
Ass.—Myer	5,755	Peck	5,251
Foster	5,888	Terry	5,922
Gilbert	5,922	Herrick	5,134
Jury Com.—Lee	5,908	Jayne	5,112

YORK.

Pres.—Hayes	6,827	Tilden	10,460
Cong.—Bressler	6,811	Mish	10,302
Senate—Fulton	6,840	Bussey	10,340
Assem.—Frey	6,793	Gorsuch	10,393
Reed	6,779	Stevens	10,286
Keefer	6,836	Sherwood	10,147
Twenty-eighth	6,784	Hemstead	10,223
P. Director—Emig	6,798	Sayres	10,367
J. Com.—Holtzman	6,825	Glatfelter	10,318

CAMBRIA.

Pres.—Hayes	572	Tilden	543
		Cooper	5
		Smith	10
Con.—Mitchell	517	White	601
		Davis, G	7
Sen.—Wetter	577	Gordon	547
Ass.—Brooks	630	Boynton	486
Prothon.—Frank	587	Judd	533
Aud.—Barrows	594	Swank	518
Jury Com.—Smith	575	Wylie	554
Sur.—Behrens	1,076	No opposition	

POTTER.

Pres.—Hayes	1,621	Tilden	1,280
		C

ing. Trade is in a perfect state of collapse, bankruptcies numerous, and deposits rapidly being withdrawn from the banks.

SERVIAN CABINET.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 21.—A dispatch from Semlin announces that the Servian ministry have refused a demand of General Tchernayeff to be admitted into the Cabinet, declaring that if he entered they would resign.

TURKISH PORTS PROTECTED BY TORPEDOES.

BRUSSELS, November 21.—The Government of Belgium has received a communication from the Belgian Consul at Malta, announcing that the Malta authorities had informed the Chamber of Commerce that torpedoes had been placed at the approach of the ports of Odessa, Keuteh, Sebastapol and Eschakoff.

A DISPATCH FROM PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF.

LONDON, November 21.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg says a dispatch of Prince Gortschakoff to Count Schouvaloff, Russian Ambassador at London, dated November 7, is published. The Prince expresses satisfaction that Lord Derby recognized in his dispatch of October 30, to Lord Lofus, British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, which was sent for transmission to Prince Gortschakoff, the efforts of the Russian Cabinet to co-operate with England. Prince Gortschakoff explains the necessity arising from the failure of diplomacy to subordinate the integrity of Turkey to guarantees, which are demanded by the interests of humanity and the peace of Europe. In conclusion, the Prince denies that Russia entertains after thoughts respecting Constantinople. Another dispatch from Prince Gortschakoff, dated October 22, expresses Russian regret at England giving way to groundless apprehensions.

A NEW CLAUSE FOR THE TREATY OF PARIS.

LONDON, November 21.—The Vienna *New Free Press* reports that the Marquis of Salisbury bears the draft of a clause to be added to the treaty of Paris, binding the Porte to effect reforms within a certain period under pain of intervention of the guaranteeing Powers.

ROUMANIA GETTING READY.

PESTH, November 21.—The Roumanian Government is preparing everything requisite for calling out the territorial troops and militia, which would increase the Roumanian forces to 100,000.

CONCENTRATION OF TURKISH TROOPS ON THE AUSTRIAN FRONTIER.

ZARA, November 21.—Intelligence received here announces that Moukhtar Pasha is concentrating twenty battalions of Turkish troops at Carinay, near Dergatz, on the Austrian frontier. It is reported that he intends to proceed to Granessa, where the troops will embark for Constantinople. This would necessitate their marching across Austrian territory. Several Turkish transports, it is stated, have already arrived at Granessa. Up to the present time five Turkish battalions have reached Carinay.

has been entrusted by Prince Milan with a special mission to the Czar, and will come here as confidential agent of the Prince. It is expected that Monovitch will succeed in re-establishing cordial relations between Russia and Servia, and will also agree with the Czar about the conditions of Servia's participation in the war, should the conference fail to bring peace.

THE ENGLISH AVER THE CZAR DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH.

LONDON, November 22.—The *Pall Mall Gazette, Standard* and other Conservative journals express complete distrust of the Czar's pacific assurances as expressed to Lord Loftus, British Ambassador to St. Petersburg, in his interview with His Majesty, November 8, and say:

RUSSIA'S HONOR PLEDGED TO OBTAIN THE AUTONOMY DEMANDED OF THE PORTE.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 22.—The Czar, in receiving various distinguished personages during the last few days, has stated that he would still hope for the maintenance of peace, if consistent with Russia's honor and his own pledged to obtain the autonomy which he had demanded from the Porte.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION FOR TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 22.—The committee appointed to frame the new Turkish Constitution have concluded their labors, and a draught of a document has been sent to the Grand Vizier. It is stated that the new Constitution will be promulgated before the 20th inst., at the meeting of the conference of the Powers.

A SPECIAL MISSION FROM SERVIA TO THE CZAR.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 22.—Marinovich, Servian Minister of the Interior,

SCHERNAYEFF REFUSED A PLACE IN THE TORPEDOES AT KERTCH.

KERTCH, November 22.—The torpedoes in the harbor are placed loose near the battery, and a gunboat has been stationed to conduct vessels through Kertch straight. The Kertch is partially obstructed, but not entirely by ice.

LORD SALISBURY'S INTENTIONS.

PARIS, November 23.—It is reported that the Marquis of Salisbury, in conference with Duke Decazes, has expressed confidence in the sincerity of the Czar's pacific declarations, and said he was going to Constantinople with no preconceived intention, but with an ardent desire to preserve peace. He was disposed to accept the propositions tending to ameliorate the condition of the Christians in Turkey.

RESIGNATION OF SERVIAN MINISTRY.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 22.—A dispatch from Semlin announces that the Servian ministers have tendered their resignation. Reason not known. Prince Milan has not yet accepted them, but the ministers persist in their determination.

THE OTHER PASHA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 22.—Edhem Pasha, Turkish Ambassador at Berlin, not Mudhat Pasha, as previously reported, has been appointed the second plenipotentiary of Turkey to the Conference.

THE RUSSIAN PROGRAMME.

BRUSSELS, November 22.—*Le Nord*, a Russian organ, confirms the substantial accuracy of the Russian programme published in the Vienna *Political Correspondence*. *Le Nord* adds that the programme is not absolutely infallible, particularly as regards the occupation of Turkish territory.

TURKISH CONCESSIONS.

COLOGNE, November 22.—The *Allegemeine Zeitung* reports that the proposed Turkish Constitution establishes ministerial responsibility and the equal rights of persons of all nationalities.

RUSSIAN ARSENALS UNPREPARED FOR WAR—SERVIA'S EXAGGERATED DEMANDS.

LONDON, November 22.—The *Times'* Berlin correspondent says: The unprepared state of Russian arsenals can be imagined from the report in the St. Petersburg *Vedomosti* that the 100,000,000 roubles which the Government is now raising already have been consumed in military expenses. The Russian Government has concluded contracts for supplies of provisions to be delivered at Bucharest and Turtukai in Roumania.

A Belgrade telegram says the Servian War Department declares the Servians will claim in the proceedings for the settlement of the line of demarkation several hundred villages on Turkish territory. These exaggerated demands, taken in conjunction with Russia's recently made representations in very threatening language concerning alleged breaches of the armistice, excite a suspicion that Constantinople that a pretext is being sought to bring about a collision whenever suitable.

PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF HORSES.

LONDON, November 22.—A Berlin special says Russia has proposed to the other Continental Powers a general prohibition of the exportation of horses by all countries.

LOUISIANA.

The Beginning of the End—The Returning Board Get Down to Their Work at Last.

NEW ORLEANS, November 20.—The crowd at the State House in the Senate Chamber and its surroundings betokened the approaching session of the Returning Board. In the middle of the apartment were arranged three tables in a circle, one for the Returning Board, the others for the Republican and Democratic committees. The corridors surrounding the rotunda were crossed by heavy beaded, guarded by an assistant sergeant-at-arms. A squad of police was stationed in the near vicinity of the Senate Chamber, in order to be on hand in case of disturbance. Toward noon the Republican and Democratic committees entered the room. Those representing the Republicans were Messrs. Tuttle, Garfield, Sherman, Hale and Stoughton, and for the Democrats appeared Messrs. Trumbull, Palmer, Bagler, G. B. Smith, G. W. Julian and Watson. The Returning Board as determined to exclude during executive session all persons except members of the national committees. Counsel will only be called in where contests are raised; that is, where a contest has been filed or accompanies the returns. Counsel will not be allowed to examine the returns when opened, merely to witness the unsealing of the packages. The Democratic Committee on Returns will have a room in the neighborhood of the Hall of Representatives, in order to be within easy reach of the Senate Chamber. Each of the national committees are accompanied by a phonographic reporter to take proceedings for their respective committees. When the board goes into executive session, members of the press will be excluded. The session of the board will continue from day to day from ten A. M. until four P. M. The clerks of the board were seated in a room back of the Senate Chamber. Local committees representing the Democrats and Republicans were present. The executive session of the board met 12:30, all the members present. The minutes were read and adopted. Governor Wells stated that a system of rules for the government of the board had been adopted. The rules were read. The board will first take up the parishes in which there are no contests; after disposing of these parishes, those will be taken up in which there are objections. All motions, &c., made by attorneys must be in writing; no oral argument will be allowed. Any candidate or his representative who desires a witness must also present interrogatories. No *ex parte* affidavits are to be received.

Judge Spofford offered a rule as a substitute for the rule for an executive session, to the effect that the sessions of the board should be public, and representatives of each party and the press reporters allowed to be present. Judge Spofford spoke in behalf of his motion.

Governor Wells stated that the board could not accept the amendments; that it had been decided to admit only national committees and their reporters.

An answer to the protest of the Democratic committees on returns was read. Colonel Zacharie filed an additional protest, in behalf of members of Congress.

Governor Wells stated that the name of Dr. Kennedy had been substituted to fill one of the vacancies on the board; that he knew only of one vacancy. The application was laid over, subject to call.

Colonel Zacharie gave notice of a protest against the board proceeding until the vacancy was filled.

On motion of Mr. Kenner, the board resolved to take up the returns of parishes, to the canvass and compilation of which there had been no objection.

Colonel Zacharie made an application for the admission of stenographers to supervisors, which was taken under advisement. Colonel Zacharie stated that he had District Attorney Beckwith's opinion on the subject.

The returns of Ascension, Assumption and Avoyelles were sent for, and the board went into executive session.

Judge Spofford, counsel for the Democrats for Secretary of State and other candidates, asked the adoption of a motion to the following effect: That all the proceedings of the board be held in session, with leave to interested candidates to be present by themselves or counsel, and that a reasonable number of press reporters for each political party be permitted to attend at all times. Judge Spofford urged the adoption of the motion in a short speech, of which the following are extracts. Addressing the President of the board, he said: "You, Mr. President, remarked the other day that your functions were partly ministerial and partly judicial. The ministerial duties are few and simple; they consist only in the addition and tabulation of votes. There is no call for privacy in applying the rules of arithmetic. In performing all the rest of your duties, the judicial duties, publicity is imperatively demanded. It is essential at every stage of the investigation, in order to ensure a just agreement, to adopt this course, that every whisper in your chamber may be heard to the uttermost extremity of the Union. Thus, and thus only, in my humble judgment, will it be possible for you to reassure a perturbed and anxious country, and to establish through all generations the righteousness of your interlocutary rulings and final award."

Governor Wells overruled the motion. The board also overruled the protest made by the Democratic Committee on Returns on Saturday against the constitutionality of the board and its legal authority to count the electoral vote. The election to fill the vacancy in the board was postponed, and the recommendation submitted by the Democratic committee laid over.

Colonel Zacharie, Chairman of the Democratic Committee on Returns, entered a protest against the board's proceeding to canvass the vote before the vacancy had been filled, there being no Democrat on its board. The United States supervisors were not allowed to be present, or the representatives of the local press.

With a view to regularity and expedition in the discharge of the duties of the returning officers of election, the following rules were adopted for their guidance:

First. Returning officers will meet at twelve o'clock M. each day, Sundays excepted, at the place designated for holding elections, unless a different hour or place be designated at adjournment.

Second. Upon meeting, the presiding officer of the board shall order the roll of members to be called. If a quorum be present, he shall direct the Secretary to read the minutes of the preceding meeting or meetings, unless the reading thereof be dispensed with. The Secretary shall daily keep an accurate account of the proceedings of the returning officers.

Fourth. The returning officers shall first take up cases and compile returns from parishes where no objection is made to the canvass or compilation of the votes cast at every polling place in such parish or parishes, on account of fraud or intimidation or other illegal practices, examining this only to ascertain whether the legal formalities have been complied with in holding the election and making returns to the returning officers.

Fifth. After disposing of parishes as provided in the preceding rule, that then the returning officers shall proceed to examine in which objection is made to the vote at any or all of the polls in such parish; that they first canvass and compile the votes of polls in such parishes to which no objection is made, and then they shall take up the contested polls in such parish; provided, that it become necessary to adjourn the investigation of any such polls on account of the absence of witnesses or other evidence, the same may be continued till a day to be fixed by the returning officers, and the returning officers shall decide at the time they are ready to proceed what parishes they will take up first.

Sixth. That all motions made by candidates or their attorneys or by other persons authorized to appear before the returning officers shall be in writing, and signed; all arguments presented to the returning officers shall be in writing, no oral argument to be allowed.

Seventh. The returning officers, if they think it advisable, may call a meeting of the board to consider any motion or argument or proposition which may be presented to them. Any member shall have the right to call for a secret session for the above purposes.

Eighth. When any candidate or his attorney or other person authorized to do so shall present a witness before the returning officers, he shall present interrogatories to be propounded to such witness, which he shall have previously submitted to his opponent to be cross-examined, at least four hours; unless such time be named or the cross interrogatories put before the expiration of that time in the examination of witness, the returning officers may investigate the witness beyond the interrogatories, when they think it necessary, but candidates and their attorneys shall not examine witnesses before the returning officers except above provided.

Ninth. No *ex parte* affidavits or statements shall be received except as a basis to show that such parish, including the other illegal practice at some poll requires interrogatories, but returns and affidavits authorized by law, made by officers of election or in verification of the documents if required by law, shall be received in evidence *prima facie*.

Tenth. That the evidence for each contested poll in a parish, when concluded, shall be laid aside till all the evidences in from all the contested polls in the several parishes where there may be contests, and after the evidence in all the returning officers will decide the several contests in secret session, parties or their attorneys to be allowed to submit briefs or written arguments up to the close of the time the returning officers going into secret session, after which no additional argument to be received unless by special consent.

The board then commenced their canvass of returns, taking up the undisputed parishes in alphabetical order. Three parishes, Ascension, Assumption and Avoyelles, were disposed of, giving about the same vote as shown in the tables made heretofore from the duplicate poll lists.

Hon. George W. Julian, who at first declined to serve on the committee with which Governor Palmer is Chairman, because he then expected to return home, has consented to be added to that committee, and will remain here till the pending investigation is concluded

NEW ORLEANS, November 21.—At 11:15 the doors were thrown open to the press. About twenty persons only were in the room, including members of the board, representatives of the two committees, stenographers, clerks, etc. Messrs. Wells, Casavara and Kenner were already present. Mr. Anderson arrived a few minutes after, at about 11:35, when the board was called to order. Governor Wells was anxious to open the door and admit spectators, as usual, but Judge Howe and the Democratic Committee on Elections was admitted behind the bar, followed by fifteen persons, who happened to be in the entrance, hoping for such a concession. Mr. Zacharie then filed the protest that he had given notice of on Monday, on behalf of the Democratic candidates for Congress. The board conferred some five or ten minutes, when Mr. Wells then moved that the board now go into executive session. This was at once done, and all but the clerks retired.

The committee of Northern Republicans to attend the sessions of the board has been changed since Monday's meeting, and now consists of Messrs. Beardsley, of Illinois, Eugene Hale, of Maine, Van Allen, of New York, Stoughton, of New York, and Garfield, of Ohio. The board sits on all parish returns in executive session. During this session the only persons present are the two committees of gentlemen from the North. Action during this executive session is as follows: The returns of a parish are taken up, placed on the table where the Chairmen of the two committees, Democratic and Republican, are seated by the side of the canvassers. These gentlemen are then invited to examine them and see whether they have been disturbed or tampered with. The returns are then opened and the consolidated vote of the parish for each elector called off. The returns are then handed to the clerks, who verify the additions made by the commissioners of elections. If these prove correct, the members of the board sign and approve them.

Judge H. M. Spofford, counsel for certain Democratic candidates, filed a protest against being excluded from the room during the canvass of the returns, and against the executive and secret sessions of the board.

Counsel for the United States supervisors of election filed a protest against the exclusion of supervisors during the canvass and compilation of the vote, following is the ground of the protest: That under the fifth section of the United States act of February 28, 1871, they are to be and remain where the ballot boxes are kept at all times after the polls are open until each and every vote cast at said time and place shall be counted, and the canvass of all votes polled to be wholly completed and the proper and requisite certificate or returns made, whether said canvass be read and adopted, Governor Wells stated that a system of rules for the government of the board had been adopted. The rules were read. The board will first take up the parishes in which there are no contests; after disposing of these parishes, those will be taken up in which there are objections. All motions, &c., made by attorneys must be in writing; no oral argument will be allowed. Any candidate or his representative who desires a witness must also present interrogatories to be propounded to such witness, which he shall have previously submitted to his opponent to be cross-examined, at least four hours; unless such time be named or the cross interrogatories put before the expiration of that time in the examination of witness, the returning officers may investigate the witness beyond the interrogatories, when they think it necessary, but candidates and their attorneys shall not examine witnesses before the returning officers except above provided.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1876.

A VERY large proportion of the falling off in the importations of dry goods is said to be due to the fact that in many classes of goods our own manufacturers are supplying the market with as good products as their foreign competitors and at lower prices.

IT IS intimated that Senator BLAINE is likely to be chosen President of the United States Senate upon the organization of that body, in which event it will devolve upon him to preside in the joint convention of the two Houses during the count of the Electoral vote.

THERE has been only one other Presidential election during the hundred years of our existence, when the vote has been so close as at this time. MONROE'S re-election in 1821 was defeated by one vote only; that small, but important majority, falling to the good fortune of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

THE permanent Exhibition at Philadelphia is now apparently assured. The only chance for a failure now rests on the improbable contingency of the Government claiming a return of its appropriation of $1,500,000 out of the surplus of the Exhibition. There have been already about $500,000 in the Centennial Exhibition stock and $100,000 in cash subscribed, which makes the $600,000 asked by the Finance Board for the Main Building.

IOWA is fairly entitled to be called the banner Republican State of the Union. It is a distinction fairly and nobly won. A correspondent writes:

The history of her victory is told in her 8,816 public schools, her 10,000 teachers, her 378 newspapers and her numberless churches. Intelligence and patriotism go hand in hand. Two years ago, while Republicans slept at their posts, the enemy captured the Third district, but to-day Iowa comes forth disenthralled and redeemed from all taint of Democracy.

THE question of organizing a separate State out of East Tennessee, which has been a favorite subject with her citizens for thirty years, is again mooted. The mountain districts of that State and of North Carolina should be jointly erected into a new Commonwealth. The physical configuration of the country is the same, and the political ideas and sympathies of the people are identical also. Neither East Tennessee nor the Northwestern portion of North Carolina has anything in common with the lower regions of those States.

A SIGNIFICANT evidence of the bitter reactionary spirit in which the news of the supposed election of TILDEN was received in North Carolina, is shown in a special dispatch to the New York *Times* from Greensboro, that State:

The jubilant Democrats draped in mourning the houses and fences of the leading Republicans, as also the Postoffice and other Federal offices. The most significant thing of all was that the building of the Free Graded School was also draped in mourning. This is the only free graded school in the State. It was opened two years ago, and has been very successful.

A PRECEDENT is found, early in the history of the Government, for throwing out the returns of certain districts. In 1792 JOHN JAY was the Federal candidate for Governor of New York, in opposition to GEORGE CLINTON. The Legislative committee rejected, on technical grounds, the returns of three counties where JAY had large majorities, and CLINTON was declared elected. The Federalists were greatly exasperated, and at many public meetings JAY was declared to be the rightful Governor of the State, but he counselled submission.

A FACT which speaks volumes in favor of the general morality of the Hebrew race has just been developed in England. One Jew killed another a few weeks ago, and it came out on trial that it was the first case on record in Great Britain in which one member of the Jewish persuasion had been charged with the willful murder of another of the same religion, and also that no Jew has been executed in that country for a period of two hundred years. The last one who suffered the penalty of death was hung just two centuries ago, and then not formurder, but for forgery.

CARDINAL MANNING would seem to hold about the same views with regard to liberty of conscience that the Democracy entertain with respect to freedom of political action. Speaking of Roman Catholic intolerance in Spain, he says:

Where a nation has religious unity, like Spain, it has a right to prevent its being broken up by sectarianism; but here, as in England, the unity is already broken, equal tolerance of all sects becomes the right policy.

THIS is simply the question of a "solid South" and a "divided North," stated ecclesiastically.

THE exportation of domestic cottons is steadily on the increase, and the probabilities are that the United States will ultimately take rank as the foremost exporter of cotton goods among the nations of the earth. The monthly rate of exportation during the present year has been over 8,000 packages, which if carried out to the close of the year, will make the export for the twelve calendar months something over 100,000 packages. This is a matter of just pride to every American citizen who desires to see his country compete successfully in the consuming markets of the world.

A GENERAL impression prevails that Colorado was admitted into the Union as a State by the present or Forty-Fourth Congress. This is an error. The Chairman of the Committee on Territories in the present House writes to a New York paper that the enabling act for the admission of Colorado was passed by the Forty-third Congress, of which he was also a member. The legislation had in the present Congress was in relation to time of residence of electors and for the purpose of the payment of the expenses of the Constitutional Convention, and in no way affected the question of the admission of the State.

AN IMPORTANT decision under the act of 1874, concerning the compensation of Government informers, has just been rendered by the United States Circuit Court of New York, and confirmed by the Treasury Department, to the effect that such persons are entitled to only one-fourth of the amount recovered by the Government, instead of one-third. This is the first contested case brought under the act of June 22, 1874, which repealed the old Informer and Moiety law, and provided for compensation to be awarded to parties affording valuable assistance to the Government in prosecuting frauds against the revenue laws.

WISCONSIN acquitted herself proudly in the late political struggle. The election in that State resulted in a majority for HAYES and WHEELER of some 6,000; in the election of five Republican members of Congress to three Democrats, and in securing a majority of over thirty Republicans on joint ballot in the Legislature. Last year Governor LUDINGTON was elected by a majority of less than a thousand, while all the rest of the State officers elected were Democrats. This shows a handsome Republican gain, in spite of the most strenuous and persistent purpose of the Democracy to carry the State, by any means that lay in their power. Well done, good and faithful servant!

THE growth of California as a wheat producing and exporting State has been exceedingly remarkable, but it appears that it has been matched by Calcutta, both in the sudden development of her wheat producing capacity and in the attractive qualities of the grain produced. An English paper informs us that in 1870 Calcutta exported only 2,000 tons of wheat. In 1875 she exported 50,000 tons, and for nine months of 1876 120,000 tons have already been exported, which would be something over 4,000,000 bushels, counting 33½ bushels to the ton, though the English ton is more than 2,000 pounds. India may yet have an important bearing on the solution of the important question of European breadstuffs supply.

RANDALL VERSUS RANDALL.

The special Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, who is possessed of a faculty of investigation for finding out, in a letter to that paper shows clearly from the official records of Congress that there is no joint twenty-second rule in force, and that Congressman RANDALL, who holds to the contrary, repudiates his own views in so maintaining. Mr. RANDALL has long been a member of the House Committee on Rules, and was a member at the time that the concurrent resolution of the Senate readopting the joint rules, except the twenty-second, came over from the Senate. To his committee also went the formal notification from the Senate declaring, by a unanimous vote, that as the House had failed to notify the Senate of the adoption of joint rules, there were none in force between the two Houses. Speaking of RANDALL'S late assertion "that never since his presence in Congress have the joint rules been re-enacted at the beginning of any Congress, but, on the contrary, they have been considered as having continuous existence," by "immemorial usage," the fact is recalled that on the first day of the last session, Mr. RANDALL introduced a resolution adopting the rules of the Forty-third Congress except two rules which he named. Mr. GARFIELD made the point of order that the rules of the last House stood as the rules of the Forty-fourth, without the necessity of formal action, "on the ground of immemorial usage." The record then continues as follows, Mr. KERR in the chair:

The Speaker—The Chair overrules it, on the ground that the Constitution clearly gives to each House the right to adopt its own rules. Whatever may have been the rules or orders of a preceding House in reference to this matter, they cannot supersede the constitutional right of this House to adopt its own rules.

Mr. Randall—The Speaker is clearly right.

Mr. Garfield—The gentleman will find that immemorial usage is in itself a rule.

Mr. Randall—Immemorial usage will do for that side of the House, but we mean to have strict construction of the rules. [Laughter.]

But now, when machinery outside of voting is wanted to elect a Democratic President, Mr. RANDALL holds that because previous Congresses have let the joint rules pass without attention, therefore the present Senate has no authority to claim its clear constitutional right to adopt its own rules. In view of this evident purpose, which has been proclaimed by others than Mr. RANDALL, the writer makes an examination of the ground taken by the Democrats of the Senate in regard to the effect of the Senate's action upon this rule, showing that a number of prominent Democratic Senators accepted the view that the action of the Senate put an end to the rule, and that no one on the Democratic side during the course of the long debate, extending through many weeks, expressed the opinion that the rule was still in force. Even Mr. RANDALL'S committee took no action upon the notification of the Senate, and thus the House, upon receiving this formal notice, virtually acquiesced in the position that the Senate could, at will, withdraw from a joint rule.

Senator BAYARD, in discussing the subject of the joint rules, in addition to what has heretofore been published from his remarks, said:

Mr. Bayard—* * * I, for one, am glad that it takes not the shape of a joint rule, which may be rescinded at will, as we have seen in this late joint rule, begotten and carried into effect in silence, and retired from without notification to the other branch of Congress simply by the sole action of the Senate. That rule is at an end. It has proved (not speaking of its own intrinsic want of merit) to have one of the greatest vices that a regulation can have, and that is a want of stability and certainty, because its existence depends upon the pleasure of the accidental majority of either body of Congress. Therefore, it is plain that, if we can provide a wholesome and just and proper rule for this important subject, it should take the permanent form of a law, which can only be rescinded by the vote of each House and the signature of the President.

In addition to these authorities, as is further shown, Mr. RANDALL, when he comes to assert the existence of the joint rule in the House, will have to face, besides these Democratic utterances on the subject, the emphatic opinions both of Mr. BARCLAY and Major MCDONALD, the accepted authorities upon the rules in the House and Senate respectively, both of whom after full examination of the question declare without hesitation that by the action of the Senate there are no joint rules in force. SAM EVIDENTLY believes, with HOSEA BIGELOW, that

A merciful Providence fashioned us hollow, On purpose that we might our principles swallow.

DEMOCRATIC orators and editors never cease talking about the usurpations of the Republican party, the tendency of Republicanism to centralization, the despotism of the present Administration, and the recklessness with which the will of the people is set aside. The Democratic party has a record, and that record shows that whenever a contest was made in behalf of the people—whenever there was a struggle between popular rights on the one hand and class privileges on the other—the misnamed Democratic party always espoused the cause of the few against the many, and has never yet made an honest effort or struck an effective blow in favor of popular sovereignty, freedom and equality. The leaders of that party are blatant now for what they are pleased to term the "will of the majority," and are dreadfully apprehensive lest the Republican party should enslave the nation. A brief review of the record of the Democratic party shows that it is not unreasonable but perfectly natural to impute to that party an entire moral capability and willingness to secure to itself political power regardless of the wishes and will of the people—such a capability and willingness to defraud the people and usurp their power as it is now manifesting in its attempt to seize the Government by fraud, intimidation, violence and murder. Whatever judgment may be formed of the conditions under which the Democratic party came into power, it cannot be questioned that its leaders soon forgot any respect for the will of the people which they may have entertained. It drifted away from the doctrines of JACKSON, made CALHOUN its standard of political ethics, and allied itself wholly with the slave power. The WILMOT proviso was a popular measure, but the Democratic party repudiated it and every man who favored it. The admission of California as a free State was resisted not only against the will of the people of that State, but of a large majority of the whole country. Its admission was delayed that the infamous Fugitive Slave law might be more securely fastened upon the people, three-fourths of whom condemned and detested it. So, too, the Missouri compromise was repealed against the wishes of the people; and an attempt was made to fasten slavery upon the soil of Kansas, in like opposition to the popular will. The frauds and usurpations of the border ruffians were consummated and sustained in Kansas under Democratic rule, and in violation of every principle of Republicanism and popular sovereignty. As "Democracy" ceased to be the "party of the people," if indeed, it was ever entitled to that appellation, the Republican party was organized, but had to endure the administration of the "last of the Bourbons," JAMES BUCHANAN, before it came into power. Although ABRAHAM LINCOLN was fairly and legally elected, the Democratic party—or, at least, the more influential wing of it—refused to submit, and inaugurated the most wicked rebellion in the history of nations. This act was the culminating one in the long list of outrages upon the rights of the majority, and defiance of the legally expressed will of the people. The "war Democrats" abandoned the party at that time, and acting with the Republicans helped to suppress the rebellion and save the country. But it is a lamentable truth that the majority of that party in the North were in full sympathy with the rebels, and did all that they dared do to further their treasonable ends. As a whole, the party was the party of the rebellion; and, in all measures of reorganization after the war, it resisted the extension of the suffrage, opposed the conferring of civil rights, and fought against everything calculated to advance and enlarge human liberty. By boldly and openly setting at defiance the will of a large majority of the legal voters in half a dozen States of the Union, this same party made a desperate and determined effort to seize the Government, at the recent election—and now, since that attempt is sure to fail, the leaders in the conspiracy set up a howl that the "will of the people" is in danger. What a hollow mockery is this, in the face of the facts just recited! The American people cannot be deceived by such noisy clamor, and no amount of shrieking from that quarter can make them believe that the liberties of the people are likely to suffer by reason of Republican success. If, unhappily, the Democracy should gain ascendency by trampling upon popular rights in the South, it will not require even one short term of four years to convince the people that it is the same selfish, illiberal, undemocratic and revolutionary party that it has always been—willing to sacrifice any principle and to trample upon any right that it may gain power.

THE history, condition and management of the public libraries of the United States, are very fully set forth in the special report by Commissioner EATON, prepared in the Bureau of Education for the Centennial. The volume contains nearly twelve hundred pages, and is accompanied by a pamphlet of rules for a printed dictionary catalogue. The volume makes the most elaborate exhibit on this subject ever attempted in this country. FRANKLIN'S collection, about 1732, was the first American subscription library. Several others have nearly the same antiquity. The library of Harvard University was begun in 1638; that of William and Mary in 1692; of Yale in 1700; of Columbia College in 1757; of the College of New Jersey in 1755; of the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1762; Friends' Library in 1742, and the library of the University of Pennsylvania received a donation from Louis XVI. of books printed at the royal office during the war. The American Philosophical Society had a few books then. There were two public libraries at Annapolis, Md., as early as 1696. The nearest approach to a free public library before the revolution was the Philadelphia. School libraries were commenced in New York in 1831, and they contained 1,604,210 volumes when they began to decline in 1853. In Pennsylvania there are a few such, and they are found in twenty-two States. Many high schools and academies have collections, as well as asylums and hospitals. Ten colleges have library funds and seventy-one colleges are named with libraries ranging from 2,400 to 212,059 each, exclusive of the society libraries. The first theological library was collected at St. Mary's Seminary of St. Sulpice, Baltimore, in 1791; the second at Beaver Creek, Pa., Seminary, in 1794, and all have gained much from individual collections. There are forty-four principal theological libraries in fifteen States, containing from 2,000 to 34,000 volumes each, the oldest being that at New Brunswick, N. J., —1784. Pennsylvania has eight, containing 77,000 volumes. There are fifty law libraries in eighteen States, of which Pennsylvania has four, containing from 2,000 to 20,000 volumes each, and thirty medical libraries in twelve States, of which Pennsylvania has five. The library of the Pennsylvania Hospital is the oldest medical collection in the country, and contains 12,500 volumes. There are twenty-eight libraries of scientific schools in fifteen States, having from 735 to 25,000 volumes each, of which Pennsylvania has two and the third in size. Of fifty-two scientific schools, nine are in Pennsylvania, and that of the Philosophical Society is the oldest. The forty-four prison and jail libraries range from forty to 8,737 volumes. The libraries of the General Government contain 656,070 volumes and 116,505 pamphlets, distributed in thirty-six departments, bureaus, etc. This excludes the books of the soldiers' homes, of military posts, ships-of-war, etc., that amount to more than 50,000 volumes. The forty-seven State and Territorial libraries hold nearly 1,000,000 volumes, principally of law. There have been more than 160 historical societies formed, and they have about 482,000 volumes and 568,000 pamphlets. These collections are mainly special and valuable. Twelve of these are in Pennsylvania. In addition to these are young men's associations, athenæums, mechanics' institutes, etc., with from 2,000 to 160,000 volumes each. There are 478 young men's Christian associations, with libraries whose size is not given, and nine Catholic associations with libraries. A table of public libraries, containing over three hundred volumes, names 3,649. These libraries contain 12,276,964 volumes and over 1,500,000 pamphlets. The returns are imperfect; but 1,510 libraries report 434,339 volumes added yearly; 742 report 8,879,869 volumes used annually; 1,722 have $6,105,581 permanent fund; the annual income of 830 is $1,398,756; the yearly expenditure of 769 for books, binding and periodicals is $562,407; the expenditure of 643 for salaries and incidentals is $682,166. The district school libraries add 1,365,407 volumes, making in all 13,642,371 volumes. A list of libraries and an index finish the work.

THE most stupendous frauds ever perpetrated in any country have been brought to light in Mississippi—the State which bears the odium of having inaugurated the shot-gun policy, by means of which a majority of the voters of three several Southern States have been virtually disfranchised. The Sixth Congressional district of that State had been "gerrymandered" in the last (Democratic) apportionment, so as to place ten counties overwhelmingly Republican, in the same district, thus conceding the blacks one member of Congress. The population of the district is thus divided between the two races: blacks, 100,509; whites, 30,650—a black majority of 69,859. It might well be conceded that in such a district a Republican member would naturally be chosen, if the colored people had any chance whatever to express their preferences. But what has been the result? The present member of Congress, Mr. JOHN R. LYNCH, the most popular colored orator in Mississippi, was nominated in this district for re-election. Opposed to him was General JAMES R. CHALMERS, as objectionable a man to the blacks as it was possible to find, since he was the leader, under FORREST, of the dreadful massacre of negro soldiers at Fort Pillow. Every negro in the district knew this fact, and there was no reason why a single one of them, free to vote as he pleased, should not cast his ballot for one of his own color and an undoubted friend, and against the man who, if not an open and avowed enemy, was at least opposed to them politically. Notwithstanding all these facts and considerations, the Democrats claim that they have honestly carried this district and elected CHALMERS! It is one of the most amazing political revolutions on record—a genuine "TILDEN and reform" reaction. In 1872, these ten counties gave GREELEY 3,972 votes, and GRANT 21,606—a Republican majority of 17,631. Now, if ever a black man had an inducement to vote for a Democratic candidate, it was when honest old HORACE GREELEY, their champion and friend, appealed to them for their suffrages; but they knew too well where their political and material interests lay, and voted against their old time defender. Now, after the lapse of four years, their sentiments have entirely changed—they repudiate an able and honored leader of their own race, and fly to the embrace of one whose chief recommendation to favor consisted in the fact that he had achieved distinction as an enemy to the Union, and had been conspicuous in one of the most atrocious and infamous acts of the rebellion. The magnificent majority of seventeen thousand six hundred has been wiped out, and CHALMERS has been elected—making a "solid" Democratic delegation to Congress from Mississippi! What conclusion must fair-minded, intelligent Democrats at the North come to, in regard to such a case as this? The worst feature is, that it is not a Congressional district, here and there, that has been defrauded of its legal right freely to choose its own representative, but whole States have been overturned by violence, intimidation and murder. States as fully Republican as Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania, have been dominated and terrorized, and made to contribute to the success of TILDEN, and to the furtherance of the schemes of the Democratic leaders of the South, whose sole object is to put down and crush out the last vestige of popular liberty in that section. All this has been done in the name of "reform" and "honest government." While the constitutional amendments and the rights of the colored people have been thus trampled on and spurned, the election laws set at defiance and whole States usurped in the South, leading Democrats of both sections have been crying "frauds," "frauds," until they are hoarse. Their scheme to seize the Government by the most gigantic frauds ever perpetrated in any country has not quite succeeded, and they have set up a howl about being "counted out" in Louisiana, and threaten a resort to violence if TILDEN is not "counted in." In no event can the conscience of the country ever be satisfied that TILDEN has been fairly elected, and if by any perversion of law he should take the Presidential chair, that fact will be made uncomfortably apparent to both him and his party.

COUNTING out Republicans fairly elected, and counting in Democrats honestly defeated, are the usual methods of nullifying the will of the people in the Northern States. In the South, the fashion now is to disfranchise Republicans by threatening to kill them, or to drive them out of the country. Democratic papers now openly boast that in many districts in Alabama, and other Southern States, not a single Radical vote was cast. In some places, where a few Republicans voted secretly, the papers are outspoken in their denunciation of the "miscreants," and if ever they are so unfortunate as to be discovered they will have to flee for their lives. This is the way the thing is done in the terrorized States. Further North, the old methods of counting "out" and "in" are still in vogue, as will appear from the following instances:

In one of the precincts of Albany, New York, the inspectors returned less than one hundred votes for Mr. Harris, the Republican candidate for Congress in the Eighteenth district. There were about four hundred votes for other Republican candidates. Mr. Harris was a very popular candidate and ran far ahead of his ticket elsewhere, but the inspectors subtracted three hundred from his vote and added it to that in favor of Mr. Terence J. Quinn, a true representative of Democracy. More than a hundred and fifty voters in the precinct have signed an affidavit declaring that they cast their ballots for Mr. Harris. It was a useless fraud, as Mr. Quinn was elected without it.

In the Fourth district of Virginia the attempt was made to count out Mr. Jorgenson, the Republican candidate for Congress. No less than one thousand seven hundred votes honestly cast for him were rejected. More were required, and the attempt failed.

There are two cases, neither yet decided, in St. Louis. Mr. Metcalf, Republican candidate for Congress in the Third Missouri district, was returned elected by five majority. In the fifty-seventh voting precinct the original return was, Metcalf, 318; Frost, Democrat, 273; total vote, 590. The total vote for President was, 588, for Sheriffs 583. Since the return was made the figure seven in Frost's vote has been changed to nine. If the change is allowed it will elect Frost by fifteen majority.

Mr. Erastus Wells, Democrat, was beaten for re-election in the Second Missouri district by 290 plurality for Nathan Cole, Republican. Mr. Wells is now seeking, or his friends are seeking for him, a recount, with the avowed purpose of having counted for him a large number of illegal votes rejected by Democratic inspectors at the polls. The votes were saved that they might be used in case of a contest.

COMMENTING on the gross Democratic intimidation of colored voters practiced in certain of the Southern States, whereby the votes of whole parishes and counties are rendered liable to be thrown out in such a way that the whites will profit by their own wrong, the *Evening Chronicle* thinks the fact—

Cannot fail to increase the apprehension already existing in the minds of reflecting men, concerning the propriety of extending the suffrage to the uneducated negroes of the South.

Rather, we should say, it cannot fail to quicken the public conscience in relation to the imperative necessity of maintaining those constitutional rights through whose unhindered operation alone can "the uneducated negroes of the South" be expected to progress into better civilization and knowledge, and "rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things." When this nation freed the negroes, it had no alternative but to make them citizens, and when we made them citizens the Constitution left us no alternative but to treat them as white citizens. Dr. BELLOWS, of New York, in a sermon preached a few days ago, put the right rule in an illustrative case. "Right here in this city of New York," he said, "we submit to the choice of officers by the votes of recently naturalized foreigners, ignorant of our institutions," because "there is no escape short of pushing aside constitutional rights." The right of the ignorant native negroes in the South where they have a majority of votes to choose officers is just as firmly imbedded in the Constitution; and the Southern States of this Union, not less those of the North, must learn to endure manfully their part of the disadvantages of equal law and universal suffrage. And if they will not learn it willingly, they must be made to learn it under correction.

THE villainy that Northern Democrats would not dare defend and maintain in a Northern State, they seem quite willing shall be perpetrated in their behalf in the South. If five contiguous counties in Pennsylvania should have given five thousand Republican majority in 1872, and four thousand in 1874, and this year should return a Democratic majority of four thousand four hundred, with but one hundred Republican votes all told, would any honest Democrat contend that such a vote should be "counted?" And if it should further appear that a proper registry had been prevented, and that large numbers of Republicans had been driven from the polls, would not fair-minded Democrats admit that such votes should be thrown out as fraudulent, if there was any legal authority whatever for so doing? Undoubtedly they would. And yet, because such things happen in Louisiana, we have Northern Democrats insisting that the only fair way is to make up the aggregate from the returns as presented, without questioning the correctness or fairness of the election in any parish, and without paying the slightest attention to the complaints of those who had been disfranchised. The Democratic party can stand a good deal, but we doubt if it can afford to take the Presidency at such a fearful sacrifice as this.

THE Republicans have gained another Congressman, the official canvass in the Fifth Maryland district showing that MCCOMAS, Republican, was, notwithstanding the immense amount of ballot-box stuffing and the running in of hundreds of voters from the District of Columbia, elected by a majority of nine. This will give the Republicans in the next House 145 members as to whose election there is no reasonable doubt. The majority of the next House will be 147 members, and to secure this majority the Republicans have only to gain, according to the figures claimed by the National Republican Committee, two additional members. There are at least five Congressmen in doubt, three of whom the Republicans confidently expect to elect. There are besides, doubtless, two additional Republicans in South Carolina whom the Democrats have not conceded to the Republicans. Moreover, in the 144 which the Democrats now claim there is at least one, ALEXANDER STEPHENS, whose presence in the next House is scarcely probable, on account of ill-health. From present indications, the parties are so nearly divided that the control of the organization of the next House may depend on the sickness and detention of two members.

THERE is trouble among the Iowa Grangers. They complain bitterly that the National Grange is eating up their substance without any equivalent return. This National Grange is charged with being a ring of self-constituted priests, having by secret and adroit management, established themselves in office and power by levying exhorbitant taxes upon State granges, thereby enabling them to get large salaries, and take annual excursions with their families at fabulous cost, all at the expense of the taxpayers. To do this they have entrenched themselves behind a high and self-constituted degree of "Priests of Merdia," to which none are admitted except such as are deemed advisable. From this inner temple are dictated to the subordinates all orders and decrees, and from which there is no appeal. It is now proposed to wipe out this star chamber by abolishing all the useless degrees and eliminating all the useless machinery and parade of the order.

AS LONG ago as 1826, Chancellor KENT made the prediction that is ever the tranquility of this nation was to be disturbed and its liberties endangered by a struggle for power, it would be upon this very subject of the choice of a President. He said:

This is the question that is eventually to test the goodness and try the strength of the constitution; and if we shall be able, for half a century hereafter, to continue to elect the chief magistrate of the Union with discretion, moderation and integrity, we shall undoubtedly stamp the highest value on our national character, and fully recommend our Republican institutions, if not to the imitation, yet certainly to the esteem and admiration of the more enlightened part of mankind. The Constitution does not expressly declare by whom the votes are to be counted and the result declared. In the case of questionable votes and a closely contested election, this power may be all-important, and I presume, in the absence of all legislative provision on the subject, that the president of the Senate counts the votes and determines the result, and that the two houses are present only as spectators to witness the fairness and accuracy of the transaction, and to act only if no choice be made by the electors.

THE President has appointed Hon. JAMES S. RUTAN, of Beaver, to the office of Collector of Customs for the Western District of Pennsylvania, *vice* THOMAS STEEL, Esq., resigned. Mr. STEEL has been in ill health for several weeks, and his condition is such that he would probably not be able to discharge the duties for some months to come. He has made a good officer, and filled his trust with fidelity to the people and the Government. Mr. RUTAN is widely known throughout the State as an active and influential Republican, and a gentleman of the highest ability and character. In the various public positions in which he has been called to serve, he has been faithful to every trust; and we risk nothing in saying that in his new place he will discharge his duties with strict fidelity, and in a manner entirely satisfactory to the public.

The eucalyptus tree is doing wonders in purifying the pestilential Roman campagna.

OUR COUNTRY.

Passages from Mr. James Russell Lowell's Ode for the Fourth of July, 1876.

James Russell Lowell publishes in the *Atlantic Monthly* for December the ode which he wrote for delivery at Taunton, Mass., on the Fourth of July last. In a foot note he explains that he has withheld the poem until now because he has been unable to finish it to his own satisfaction. We copy some passages from it:

I. 2.

What shape by exile dreamed elates the mind
Like here whose brute arm fortress of the poor,
No blood in lawful vengeance spilt bestains?
Who nurser turned a supplicant from her door?
Whose conquests are the gains of all mankind?
To-day her thanks shall fly on every wind,
Unstinted, unrebuked, from shore to shore.
One love, one hope, and not a doubt behind:
Cannon to cannon shall repeat her praise,
Banner to banner flap it forth in flame;
Her children shall rise up to bless her name,
And wish her harmless length of days,
Thy mighty mother of a mighty brood,
Blessed in all tongues, and dear to every blood,
The beautiful, the strong, and, best of all, the good!

I. 3.

Stormy the day of her birth:
Was she not born of the strong,
Sire, the last ripeness of earth,
Beautiful, prophesied long?
Stormy the nurture of prime:
Hers are the pulses that beat
Higher for perils sublime,
Making them fawn at her feet.
Was she not born of the strong?
Was she not born of the wise?
Daring and counsel belong
Of right to her confident eyes:
Human and manful are they.
Careless of station or race:
Hark'ee! her children to-day
Shout for the joy of her face.

II. 1.

No praises of the past are hers,
No fanes by hallowing time carossed,
No broken arch that ministers
To some sad instinct in the breast:
She has not gathered from the years
Grandeur of tragedies and tears,
Nor from long leisure the unrest
That finds repose in forms of classic grace;
These may delight the coming race
Who haply shall not count it our crime
That we who fain would sing are hear before
our time.
She also hath her monuments;
Not such as stand decrepit, resigned
To ruin-make the path of dead events
That left no seed in all the world behind,
The tourist's pensioners that show their scars
And meander of forgotten wars;
Her trophies not on the ground, but in the mind,
Her open-hearted palaces
For large-thoughted men with heaven and
earth at ease:
Her march the plump mow marks, the sleeping
wheat,
The golden sheaf, the self swayed common-
weal;
The happy homesteads hid in orchard trees
Whose sacrificial smokes through peaceful air
Rise sent in heaven, the household's silent
prayer;
What architect hath bettered these?
With softened eye the westward traveler sees
A thousand miles of neighbors side by side,
Holding by toil won titles fresh from God
The lands no serf or seigneur ever trod,
With manhood latent in the very sod,
Where the long billow of the wheat-field's tide
Flows to the sky across the prairie wide,
A sweeter vision than the castled Rhine,
Kindly with thoughts of Ruth and Bible-days
benign.

* * * * * * *

III. 2.

Murmur of many voices in the air
Unconscious to degenerate,
Unfaithful guardians of a noble fate,
And prompts indifference or despair:
In this the country that we dreamed in youth,
Where wisdom and not numbers should have
sway,
Seed-fields of simpler manners, braver truth,
Where shams should cease to dominate
In household, church and State?
In this Atlantis? This the unpoisoned soil,
Sea-whelmed for ages and recovered isle,
Where parasitic greed no more should coil
Round Freedom's stem to bend awry and
blight
What grew so fair, sole plant of love and
light?
Who sit where once in crowned seclusion sate
The long-proved athletes of debate
Talkers from their youth, speech runs to some thinks
needful new?
In this declaring club where boys dispute,
And rangle o'er their stolen fruit,
The Senate, erewhile guerdon of the few,
Where Clay once fashioned Webster's cloudy
brow
Brooded—those bolts of thought that all the
horizon knew?

* * * * * * *

III. 4.

Back to my breast, ungrateful sigh!
Whoever falls, whoever errs,
The penalty be ours, not hers:
The present still seems vulgar, seen too nigh;
The golden age is still the age that's past:
I ask on drowsy opiate
To dull my vision of that only State
Founded on faith in man and therefore sure to
last.
For, oh, my country, touched by thee,
I'll arm my hairs gaither back their gold:
Thy thought sets all my pulses free;
The heart refuses to be old;
The love is all that I can see,
Not to thy hasal day belong
Time's prudent doubt or age's wrong,
But gifts of gratitude and song:
Unsummoned crowd the thankful words,
As sap in spring-time floods the trees,
Foreboding the return of birds,
For all that thou hast been to me!

THE REBEL SENTIMENT.

Specimen Extracts from a Mississippi Tilden Paper.

The following paragraphs are taken from the Meridian (Miss.) *Mercury* of the 11th inst.

"It is just possible that the Northern Republicans who, in their rage, threaten that Tilden, if elected, will not be permitted to be inaugurated, could be brought to a resort to arms to prevent it, on the negro element being in the way of throwing the weight of the South's strength in favor of the right. If their folly should provoke such an appeal to arms, it will be attended with at least one result. They will learn that a world South in peace is far more so in war. There will be no negroes then to be interfering with the more perfect use of the thews and sinews of the negroes, which the governing genius of the Southern race will be absolutely. The turbulent manifestations observed now, in war would cease altogether, because in war laws are silent, and in the midst silent of all the ridiculous nastiness of reconstruction would be those laws which now tempt foolish negroes to turbulence, and such foolish ventures as at Artesia on Wednesday."

"The Radical ticket distributed among the negroes yesterday was headed 'Hold the Fort!' It had a picture with 'Father Abraham' as the principal figure. The darkeys stuck them deep down in their pockets and held them with a grip. It is not certainly known what white man distributed the tickets among them, but it was done clandestinely. They didn't hold the fort."

"The negroes didn't 'hold the fort' much in this county. Now that it is all over, we would give a pretty good sum to know who printed those tickets headed 'Hold the Fort,' and who distributed them. We suggest to them that the better policy, in future, is to print their tickets openly and distribute them openly, like white men. In other words, we recommend our political friends to be as bold as a sheep in all their election tricks. That is the way to put up the value of wool as a factor in a political election."

"There got out an impression yesterday that there was a Government United States Marshal and spy about. A drummer came into the crowd and was a looker on in Vienna, and soon fell under suspicion. He was very soon interviewed, but with all due politeness. His references were satisfactory. We do not suppose he takes our inquisitiveness unkindly at all, as we most gentlemanly apologies were tendered for interrupting his quiet observations."

VIRGINIA THREATS TO NEGROES.

From the Petersburg Index-Appeal, November 18th.

"Black folks are said to be 'powerful uncertain.' We had some instances of colored inconstancy in this district. The North Carolina papers are publishing the names of negroes in that State who promised their white friends solemnly to vote for Tilden, and then basely treacherously to the polls and deposited their ballots for Hayes and Wheeler. Among these scoundrels was a colored barber of Halifax, by the name of John Dabney. The hope is expressed in the North Carolina exchanges that these knaves will be spotted and treated as their perfidy deserves. The men who vote deliberately against the rights, the prosperity, interests and the liberties of the Southern people have no claim to be supported by the patronage of the citizens of this section. They will never be brought to reason except by short, sharp and decisive measures. Let them be left without pat rons and without friends, and they will soon enough find out where their interests lie, and will vote accordingly. It may seem beneath the dignity of gentlemen to concern themselves about the politics of those who serve them; but this is no ordinary political issue, and those who oppose us are warring on the very liberties of our children, and on the bread which is in their mouths. We cannot make it too warm for these miscreants, and the sooner the policy of making them responsible for their iniquitous course is inaugurated, the better it will be for all parties interested."

INTIMIDATION IN GEORGIA.

The Washington (Wilkes county, Ga.) *Gazette* says, that the vote there was 1,139 for Tilden and 2 for Hayes, and then talks thus plainly: "The above shows this old county to be still true to the Democracy. At the State election last month there was not a single Radical vote polled in the county. In the voting last Tuesday there were two voted at this princinct, by whom is unknown; and it is well, perhaps, that the two creatures who attempted to dim the bright escutcheon should remain unknown. The two Radical votes may have been polled by negroes, but we do not know. About ten o'clock a large number of negroes, about two hundred in all, marched into town from the negro settlement in procession. They came, doubtless, with the intention of voting the Radical ticket. They marshaled up to the railing around the court house and halted. They stood around for about half an hour, looking confused and sheepish. They were no doubt ashamed of themselves. A few white men went among them and talked with them, but could get nothing out of them. Some of the negroes had a curious way of their Hayes and Wheeler ticket, and tried to find one among these negroes, but they failed, as not a darkey would show his ticket. Finally they withdrew in good order, but looking very foolish."

A WAR CRY FROM INDIANA.

From the Terre Haute Journal, November 18.

"The Tilden men of the North and South will not be cheated or counted out. We appeal to all our brethren, to Democratic Governors and Democrats everywhere to stand fast in the faith, to come up to the grand work which the hour may yet call for. We say it, that these United States by a quarter of a million majority have called Samuel J. Tilden to the chair of State. The majority rules. The majority will fight if there are no other means to save this country. Are we cowards and slaves? Is the spirit which made us freemen and the States a Republic now dead? Let the Republicans dare evoke the wrath of this nation. We put down rebels once and it can be done again. All the Democrats ask is for an honest election and an honest count, and for that they must even fight or become forever branded as dotards and time-servers when the crisis calls for heroism and courage."

Butter Culture.

[From the New York Times.]

Pisciculture is a business of such recent origin that it is still regarded by the public as an interesting novelty. More novel, more curious and far more interesting is the business of butter culture, which, like pisciculture, is an aquatic industry. Extensive butter beds have been planted in the Thames, at London, and are yielding large and profitable harvests. Within a few years we may expect to see the slow old fashioned methods of the cow and churn wholly superseded by the more rapid and more results achieved by river butter culture. Dairymen will retire from the butter arena and, under the supervision of able and intelligent boards of butter commissioners, the growth of butter will be brought to such a degree of perfection as to place that useful compound within the reach of the poorest householder in the country.

The London *Medical Examiner* of a late date contains an interesting description of the process of hunting and growing butter. The butter culturist selects a nice muddy locality in the bed of a river flowing through a large town, and carefully plants his butter seeds. The bed must not be more than a foot below the surface of the water at low tide, and it must be constantly swept by a strong current. Butter cannot be grown in a pure mountain stream, but only in a river which receives a large amount of sewage, by which the butter plants are nourished. Having selected an eligible bed, the butter culturist sets out a number of small globes of the size of a filbert, made of cork, hair and woody fibers. As is well known to analytical chemists who have experimented upon the common butter of boarding house tables, these small globes contain all the essential ingredients of butter except its oleaginous parts. Of course, the butter culturist is not strictly confined to the cork, hair and woody fibers, but may also add hair pins and buttons in quantities to suit his own taste. Having, however, decided upon the first ingredients of his butter, he plants his seed globes in the bed of the butter bed, placing them upon short but stout stalks either of wire or wood. The seed rapidly germinates and, under the genial influence of the sewage, the plant soon reaches maturity. When fully ripe, it is gathered by boys with bare legs and carried to the butter press, where it undergoes certain refining processes. The ripe butter plant presents the appearance of a ball of dark colored wagon grease, through which hair, particles of corks and bits of woody fibers are woven in the most artistic style. The ingenious particles are, of course, derived from the refuse grease which finds its way from kitchens and manufactories into the sewers; and, though the ripe butter plant is neither